

# Newsletter

The Official Newsletter of Kingsley-Pierson Community Schools

December/January 2017

## A Note from the Superintendent

I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for all those who have volunteered to help with the many activities and events we participate in throughout the school year. From those who volunteer to help teachers with projects on Tuesday to those who have helped with our various events, such as grandparents/special friends day, the book fair, working concession stands, to participating on the music or athletic booster clubs, to working with your children in their educational projects, to those businesses that have donated money or items for our use. Each of you are an intricate part of our school system. THANK YOU!

The Panther Ball is fast approaching and the Panther Ball committee is in high gear. The Panther Ball is a fun night of food and dancing and the best part is, money raised from this night benefits the students here at Kingsley-Pierson. The money raised from this event has been donated to the school for items such as band and athletic uniforms, new football helmets that help prevent concussions, and money goes towards field trips in the elementary. Please continue to support the Panther Ball. If you cannot attend, consider giving a donation to the committee. Your help is greatly appreciated.

We have had a tremendous amount of people request keys to the weight rooms in Kingsley or Pierson. There is a \$50 fee for using the weight room. The use of the weight room does come with some responsibility on the part of the person requesting the key. We do not ask much but to make sure we can continue to offer this service, we ask that everyone take a moment, when done working out, to clean up a little bit, put weights away and wipe off the machines. If you plan on using the treadmill, please use a different pair of shoes than the ones you walked into the weight room with, especially during the winter season. The dirt and moisture will affect the machine. If everyone does their part, we will be able to offer this for many more years. Thank in advance for your efforts to help us with this. Also, the door between the weight room and the hallway needs to remain closed and locked in the evening, for security reasons.

Thanks again for the continued support you have all shown during this past year. We are truly blessed to have such a supportive community.

## Upcoming PPEL Election

There will be an election on February 7, 2017 to vote on the continuation of the Kingsley-Pierson Community School District Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) that was approved by voters in September of 2006. If passed, the levy would continue for another ten years.

This is a combination property tax and income surtax generating approximately \$120,000 annually. Currently the income surtax funds about two thirds of the levy with the remainder being funded through property tax. The allocation between the taxes can be changed by the board annually but is limited to a dollar amount equivalent to sixty-seven cents per \$1000 of assessed valuation. The budget for the fiscal year ending in June of 2017 included about 22 cents per thousand of assessed property valuation and an income surtax on state individual income tax of 3%. As an example, if your assessed property valuation equals \$100,000, this would equal \$22.00 in annual property tax. In addition, if your state individual income tax equals \$1000, this would add \$30 to your income tax bill.

The district typically uses this funding to purchase equipment such as computers, including non-instructional software, furniture, vans and buses, kitchen and custodial equipment, and leasing of copiers. The funds are also used for facility and grounds

*continued on Page 2*

# Elementary Comments

- Mr. Wiese

December is a great opportunity for spending time with family and friends! Make it a goal to read a couple of good books this month!

The second quarter is about to be completed. The second quarter ends on Friday, December 23, 2016. In addition the first semester ends the same day. There is NO SCHOOL on Monday, January 11, 2016. The third quarter/second semester begins on Wednesday, January 4, 2017.

Report cards from the 1st semester 2016/2017 will be sent home by Friday, January 6 in most cases. Our second round of F.A.S.T. testing (Winter) will take place the week of January 30. Parent Teacher Conferences take place on Tuesday, March 14 and Thursday, March 16. Please mark these dates on your calendar.

The weather has been a roller coaster this winter. A definite cold blast has hit us this month! Please make sure your child has the proper attire for going outside. Thank you for all of your preparation with this issue.

Finally, "thank you" to all of you who brought in canned items, money, etc. for our "Food Drive" this past December 2015! I know we made several families holidays brighter and happier this season!

## PPEL Election *continued*

improvements, such as a major roof or HVAC repair or a parking lot replacement.

While the board has discussed the possibility of adding a second gym in Kingsley and the funds could legally be used to help with that project, the purpose of this election is to continue a current tax that is funding current needs as listed above. If the board decides to proceed with a gym project, the funding likely would come mostly from the one cent statewide sales tax.

Polls will be open from noon until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 2017. Official ballot language is available at the district office and the sample ballot will be published in "The Record" prior to the election.

"The Kingsley-Pierson CSD believes education enhancement requires consistently fair and equitable educational and employment practices without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, creed, age, sexual orientation, marital status, sex, gender, gender identity, disability or socio-economic status."



## Cozy Up & Code

*Erin Hoffman*

December 5th-11th was Computer Science Education Week. Kingsley-Pierson decided to celebrate the week by participating in the Hour of Code. We named this activity Cozy Up and Code and challenged ALL of our students, staff, and teachers to complete one hour/class period of code throughout the week. Our goal was 445 hours of code!

During the week we coded using the many activities provided by Code.org like Minecraft, Flappy Bird, Frozen and more. Students enjoyed a peppermint and received a sticker while coding. Millions of students around the world will be participating in the Hour of Code during this week. According to Code.org, "Every student should have the opportunity to learn computer science. It helps nurture problem-solving skills, logic and creativity. By starting early, students will have a foundation for success in any 21st-century career path." Coding not only helps students work on computers and other devices, it also allows them to work on critical thinking, communication, computation among many other skills.

Miss Hoffman and the high school Web Design students helped plan, present and promote Cozy Up and Code with all of the students at KP. The high school business classes helped the elementary classes complete their Hour of Code by providing guidance, tech support, and encouragement.

By the end of the week, throughout the district, we completed 618 hours of code!

We look forward to doing this activity again next year and increasing our coding skills and our goal.

Visit the following link for more opportunities to code, <https://code.org/learn>

# 3rd Grade News

The third graders in Mrs. Bailey's class has been very busy as of late. They studied about the seven continents and four oceans in social studies. After finishing the unit, we traveled to the middle school to complete a globe activity with Mrs. Boustead's 8th graders. The kids all worked so well together, and we even enjoyed lunch with our 8th grade friends in Pierson. In November, my students organized the voting booth for the presidential election. They manned the polls, tallied votes, and reported the results. What an authentic lesson for students!

In November, we also celebrated Veterans Day by writing letters to soldiers overseas and creating a giant American flag to hang outside Mr. Wiese's office. The students also worked with Mrs. Dunne's kindergartners on a thankful activity. Lastly, the Garden Club ladies visited our classroom to share a poem and help us create ornaments for the tree displayed in LeMars. The students are looking forward to Christmas break and spending time with their families. Merry Christmas and a JOYful New Year to you all!



# Middle School Comments

- Mr. Wiese

Our 1st semester is almost complete and we are excited to begin our 2nd semester of 2016/2017 on Wednesday, January 4! Please note the dates below for updates and other information. Report cards from the 1st semester will be sent home by Friday, January 6 in most cases. Time does fly and our Parent-Teacher Conferences for the third quarter are scheduled for March 14 & 16, 2017.

Please encourage your child to get off to a great start in the third quarter! A special “thanks” goes out to all of the students, faculty, staff, other adults, and agencies who/whom had a part in donating items/money to many in the area this past December 2016!

The Christmas concert held on December 5th was awesome and was a great way to kick off the holiday season! Special recognition goes out to all of the band members, choir students, and teachers!

The basketball season is in the heart of the season! Congratulations to all of the players, managers, cheerleaders, and coaches involved with the basketball program. Here are the remaining games in December 2016.

Tuesday	December 13	4:00 PM	Harris-Lake Park Boys	@ Pierson	
Thursday	December 15	4:00 PM	River Valley Boys	@ Washta	
Monday	December 19	4:00 PM	Westwood	Girls @ Sloan	Boys @Pierson

The wrestling season begins with a meeting tentatively scheduled for Monday, January 16, 2017. The official schedule will be given out to the wrestlers then and will also be submitted to the January and February 2017 school newsletters. The first middle school wrestling meet of the season is on Tuesday, January 31 @4:00 pm in Onawa!

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## Coach's Corner

**Elementary Instructional Coaches: Amy Bailey & Laura Boustead**

We have really focused our efforts and attention to the reading data wall for the elementary. The reading data wall is where we have all of our K-5 students listed(anonymously) according to whether or not they are below, approaching, meeting, or exceeding our literacy benchmarks. We also have noted what interventions the child may be receiving to know what support we need to try next. We held meetings at the end of the first quarter with teachers and Emily Koson (our NWEA consultant) to move student cards according to data. We also recently met with grade level teachers and special teachers to discuss what interventions are being used with students. Basically we are trying to find out what is working and what is not. We found these meetings to be especially beneficial as we were able to communicate with everyone involved in the child's progress. This year we are truly tracking every K-5 student's progress in literacy. Laura and I have also worked on professional development as it pertains to reading and the Iowa Core. Teachers are given collaboration time to focus on one aspect of the Core that they may need to give more instruction

**Middle School Instructional Coach: Valerie Sitzmann**

The past month I have concentrated on visiting each middle school classroom, and I am so thankful that teachers have invited me into their classes. I was invited to co-teach a lesson, but I was unaware I would be singing during the lesson. So, students now realize why I am not a vocal teacher. Other teachers have asked me to model a Think-Aloud strategy and to assist in data collection to determine a course of action for planning future instruction. Inquiry based learning has been the focus for another teacher, so I have been asked to participate in the classroom to learn more about the process and offer feedback for instruction

# Coach's Corner

## High School Instructional Coaches: Jayne Vondrak & Kris Hackett

As teachers, we continuously strive to improve our teaching strategies. One area of focus is effective questioning techniques for higher order thinking. As Instructional Coaches, we have collected evidence of questions asked in classrooms and have assisted in coding the kind, type, and level of each learning-related question asked by the teacher. Our goal is to increase students' independent learning and improve cognitive processes.

In the past month, we have observed in every high school classroom and offered individual support as teachers have requested. In addition to providing guidance for AIW lessons and aligning curriculum to the Iowa Core standards, we have collaborated with teachers through designing lessons and grading rubrics as well as answering questions concerning classroom management. We have also had the pleasure of co-teaching in a variety of classrooms, which has allowed teachers to consider new dimensions for their lessons as well as to increase student achievement. An added benefit of co-teaching has been providing supplemental support to students as they work to meet requirements in content areas.

We make a conscious effort to be intentional in our reflection and collaboration as Instructional Coaches. We have witnessed many positive outcomes as a result of our Teacher Leadership at Kingsley-Pierson.

## Digital Literacy Coaches: Jackie Lammers & Erin Hoffman

Technology is my passion and the Digital Literacy Coach position has allowed me not only to reach out to other teachers but it gives me the opportunity to reach my students in the other content areas. Over the last few months I have been able to partner with multiple teachers on projects and have been invited into their classrooms to demonstrate new innovative technology. Incorporating technology into lessons creates a new dimension in our classrooms. Having great teachers with strong content knowledge, delivery, and passion are at the forefront of what we teach everyday adding technology to the recipe is just the sugar on top. - EH

Over the past few weeks I have had the opportunity to work with the elementary staff to set up the chromebook pods for their students. I have added all of the students to an assigned Chromebook and also bookmarked several links for the students to use. Bookmarking these links allows the students to all get to the same place at the same time more quickly. I have also been working to help make updates to the website. I have been working with the middle school students on using technology to improve their studying for tests. We are using Quizlet to help us right now. I am loving the opportunities I have had in this position. I love that I get to learn right beside the staff and my students. We are helping each other be better and it is a win/win. -JL

## Computer Science Education Week

We educated, presented, and promoted computer science by focusing on coding. Students participated in the Hour of Code during the week of December 5-9th to reach our goal of 445 hours code. We challenged all students, teachers, and staff to complete one hour/class period of code. According to Code.org, "Every student should have the opportunity to learn computer science. It helps nurture problem-solving skills, logic and creativity. By starting early, students will have a foundation for success in any 21st-century career path." We called our week of coding, Cozy Up and Code. Students used the coding activities at Code.org. As Digital Literacy Coaches we are hoping to see coding become a regular activity in our classrooms. -EH and JL

# Curriculum Corner

Amy Benson

The weather is getting colder as I sit here and type. It is not something I am fond of, but the spirit of the season is evolving and that makes me very festive! I had the pleasure of viewing the K-P Youth Theater production this weekend and I am still feeling very blissful. I am constantly amazed at the talent we have in our district and community. We are truly blessed that so many share their time and talents!

What a perfect segue into our Teacher Leadership and Compensation grant this year! As you know, we have 10 new positions that were created this fall with a grant we received from the state of Iowa. Our positions at K-P are similar to other districts. We have 3 model teachers and 7 Instructional/ Digital Literacy Coaches. I was so nervous for this process to begin, but again, I am truly blessed because at K-P our Teacher Leaders are moving mountains! They have inspired some teachers who were feeling burnout. They have encouraged new teachers. They have supported teachers to take risks and step outside the box. Along with taking that leap of faith, they have walked our teachers through every step of the way. I know your child dislikes having their teacher out of the classroom, but we have to remember why we are in this process. Our number one goal is to improve student achievement. If we are getting teachers the extra resources they need, we are working towards meeting our goal. Your child's teacher is out of the classroom two half days a month to coach. They are also absent at other times to go to workshops to learn ideas and strategies they can bring back to share with our staff. Make sure you read our Coaches' Corner article again this month to read about all the fascinating learning going on with our coaches and teachers.

Our teachers are busy writing Farm Bureau Grants. We are very thankful for this opportunity again this year. Each teacher may write a grant for up to \$200 to incorporate agriculture into their classroom. They can use this money for field trips, guest speakers, and numerous other resources.

Speaking of grants... Kris Hackett & I wrote an art grant last spring. The grant was to add art equipment that would benefit our school district. In July, Kingsley-Pierson CSD was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Iowa Arts Council!! The money K-P received from the School Arts Equipment Grant allowed us to purchase

two pottery wheels, two stools, numerous glazes, and pottery tools as well as many other art supplies. With budget constraints affecting every school district, we would not have been able to provide access to pottery wheels without this funding. As a school district, our goal is to expose our students to as many educational opportunities as possible. Working with clay allows students to experience an art media unlike any other. Clay helps students of all ages and abilities to develop motor and sensory skills, to improve problem solving skills, to build self-esteem, and to learn self-discipline. We are so thankful to the Iowa Arts Council for this grant! The pottery wheel we had at KP was probably 40 years old with loose wires hanging off of it, making it unsafe to use the last few years. Without this grant, we would not be able to teach this essential art medium to our students. Our high school students are eager to begin learning the process and will begin throwing second quarter.

Thank you for reading. I hope you were inspired at all the work being done at K-P. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**#kpstrong**



# News from Mrs. Goodwin

**SPORTS SCHEDULES:** Our Fall Athletic Banquet was a success! Thank you to the parents for the delicious food and the KP Booster Club for providing, drinks, plates, etc.

Our Winter Season is full swing! Please check the Google School Calendar for updates, etc. and continue to show your positive Panther Pride!

Also, remember that during wrestling season, while the mats are down in the MPR, no one should be in there unless it is reserved for a specific group (i.e. youth wrestling). No one is allowed to use the PE equipment unless prior approval, as well (we are having damaged equipment & missing/stolen things from that room). We need to respect the equipment and mats in our MPR/wrestling room. Thank you

Please utilize our Kingsley-Pierson website for updated schedules and gym times. You can locate gym times under the "community" link.

## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Senior Parents' Night** for basketball is: Feb. 7, 2017

**KP Wrestling Invitational** Jan. 28, 2017 @ 9:30 am

**Sectional Wrestling:** Feb. 4, 2017 @ TBA

**WV Conference basketball tourney brackets** will be posted on our website. Postseason basketball is not posted yet.

## **ELEMENTARY BASKETBALL CLINIC:**

3rd/4th graders who attended the clinic, will play at half-times of HS games on Jan. 6th. Information will be sent home before Christmas. Those players will get in free.

5/6th graders who attended the clinic, will play at half-times of HS games on Jan. 13th. Information was sent out before Christmas. Those players will get in free.

**SAVE THE DATE: Panther Ball**—February 18, 2017

**PE NEWS:** Elementary PE will be using the MPR when the wrestling mats are down. The students DO NOT wear shoes on the mats, but they MUST have socks on.

Also, remember if your child has seen a doctor and they are excused from PE for any medical reason, they will need a note from their doctor or from you, the parent/guardian, saying that they are OK to participate. Thank you for your cooperation!

# K-PCSD Foundation

Christmas may be the all-consuming thought in the minds of most of us in early December. With a new year just around the corner, tax time cannot be far off.

With that in mind, the Kingsley-Pierson Community School District Foundation can be considered as a possible place for some monies you may prefer to keep in our community and in the hands of our Kingsley-Pierson graduates, helping with their post high school education. This can be part of a current bequest or a will or trust.

That money can be awarded in memory of a specific person or persons, as is being done, or through a more generic name. Also, you may set requirements to be met for consideration for a scholarship. You may be the person to determine the recipient or part of a committee that you establish.

Mr. Scott Bailey, Kingsley-Pierson superintendent, (378-2861) may be contacted for information as well as Roger Schmid, (378-2341) treasurer of the foundation.

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# #kpstrong

By: Erin Hoffman, Connor Toliver, and Jadon Woehler

In this day and age, everyone ranging from teenagers to adults are using social media. Social media services such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram help us communicate almost instantaneously with anyone around the world. On these services, people use hashtags for a variety of reasons: to express themselves, to share experiences, and to communicate their common interests. Here at Kingsley-Pierson, we have created our own hashtag called "#kpstrong".

The Web Design class with the help from teachers and students created a list of 10 possible hashtags. The Kingsley-Pierson staff and School Board reduced the list of 10 to 3. We posted a poll on the school website on November 21st and allowed students, teachers, and the community to select our school hashtag.

We are encouraging anyone connected to the Kingsley-Pierson School District to use the hashtag, #kpstrong, on any social media to promote all aspects of our school. We pride ourselves on our academics, athletics, and all other activities our talented students participate in. Thank you to everyone that has already used the hashtag and please help us continue to showcase all of the positive things going on within our KP Schools.

# JANUARY 2017

## Kingsley-Pierson Community School District Activities Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>New Year's Day</b> 1	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
	*No School.	*No School. *Staff development 8:00-4:00.	*Classes resume. Begin 3rd Qtr/ 2nd Sem. *Bible Buddies 4:00-6:00 Pierson library (Wilson).	*WR at WW (Sloan) 6:00 (KP, R View, WW). *BB vs. SLSM at home 6:00 (JV Girls/V Boys).	*JV BB vs. MVAO at home 4:00. *BB vs. MVAO at home 6:00.	*WR - West Sioux Tournament (Hawarden) 10:30.
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
	*JV WR at West Sioux 4:00. *School board meeting 7:00. *Clover Kids 3:30-5:00.	*Jr. High BB vs. WC 4:00 Boys - Merville, Girls - Pierson. *JV BB at LB 4:00. *BB at LB 6:00.	*1:30 early dismissal. *Staff development 1:30-4:00. *Kingsley Patriots 4-H meeting in the FACS room 1:50-3:00.	*WR at Rock Valley 6:00 (KP, CLRV, SF Washington). *Jr. High BB vs. LB 4:00 Boys - Pierson, Girls - Bronson. *BB vs. EPJ at home 6:00.	*ACT registration deadline for Feb. 11 test date. *JV BB vs. WC at home 4:00. *BB vs. WC at home 6:00.	*WR - WVC Tournament at WM (Onawa).
<b>15</b>	<b>Martin Luther King Day 16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
	*HS NWICDA Honor Choir.	*Jr. High BB vs. MMC/RU 4:00 Girls only at Remsen. *JV BB at RV 4:30 - Boys only. *BB at RV (Correctionville) 6:00.		*Jr. High BB vs. RV 4:00 Girls only at Pierson. *JV BB vs. MMC/RU at home 4:00 *BB vs. MMC/RU at home 6:00.	*WR - OABCIG Tournament 5:00. *JV BB vs. WM at home 4:00. *BB vs. WM at home 6:00.	*WR - OABCIG Tournament. *Large Group Speech contest.
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
*The Dwelling benefit breakfast.	*Jr. High BB vs. RV 4:00 Girls only at Washta.	*Jr. High BB vs. HLP 4:00 Girls only at Pierson. *BB - Girls V vs. GTRA at SLSM 6:00.	*Bible Buddies 4:00-6:00 Pierson library (Wilson).  *6th-12th 3 week progress report date.	*BB Boys WVC Tmry (JV/V) TBA.	*BB Girls WVC Tmry (JV/V) TBA.	*KP Invitational Wrestling Tmry.
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				
	*WR at home 6:00 (KP, MMC/RU, Heelan). *BB Boys WVC Tmry (JV/V) TBA.	*Jr. High WR at Pierson 4:00. *BB Girls WVC Tmry (JV/V) TBA.				
						<p>Activities calendar is subject to change. For most up-to-date calendar, please check the school website: <a href="http://www.k-pcsd.org">www.k-pcsd.org</a> .</p>