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*We will do everything possible to ensure everyone in the
BCIG Community becomes the best that he or she can be!*

*As an agent of the community and society, the OA School's purpose is to provide
an environment where all persons shall develop life skills by learning to learn.*

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCOOP
DR. NICK OUELLETTE, Superintendent

VOTES, LEGISLATURE, AND TECHNOLOGY

I would like to say thank you to the members of all four of our communities that went out and voted on February 5th for our Revenue Purpose Statements. As we continue to look for ways to improve our facilities and equipment for our kids, these Revenue Purpose Statements provide both districts with the stability of infrastructure funds well into the future to ensure that our long-term goals can be met. We will constantly strive to provide our kids with a world-class education in top-notch facilities.

The legislature has been in session for over a month now. During this legislative session, education reform and allowable growth have become some very highly debated topics. I would like to take a moment to address both. First, education reform is a well-intended idea by the Governor's office and I believe there are several parts of the legislation that are very good. I think we need to continue to evaluate what we are doing in our school districts and constantly strive to get better. There are several components in the bill that leave a lot of questions unanswered. The proposals are very extensive and would be difficult to address in this newsletter adequately. I would recommend everyone taking a moment to go to Iowa Association of School Boards' website to learn more about the ins and outs of the legislation @ www.ia-sb.org.

The second component that has been getting a great deal of attention is the allowable growth. Allowable growth is the percentage by which school district are able to increase their budget. School districts do not have the ability to make profits or generate income. We are at the mercy of the legislature every year to provide us with additional money for inflationary costs. Over the past few years, school districts have been receiving very low increases in allowable growth. Because of these low increases, even two years ago the increase was 0%, school districts have had to scale back services and look for ways to run more efficiently. I believe with the steps the district has taken over the past couple of months we will be running as efficiently as possible. In essence, there are very few, if any, places left to cut without having a great impact on kids. Please contact your state representative and let them know that we are doing everything we can in rural Iowa to be good stewards of the money we get for education and that we need increases in allowable growth to keep up with the inflationary costs of doing business.

On Tuesday, February 12th, I had the pleasure of attending the Ida Grove Chamber of Commerce annual dinner. The event featured a keynote speaker, an Investment Banker from Omaha. He made a statement that resonated with me for the entire evening and ever since. He said, "If you have third-world skills no matter where you are, you will get third-world wages." This statement echoed with me as I think about how we want to prepare our kids for the world that faces them after graduation. We want to give our kids every opportunity to be as successful as they want to be. At the March board meeting I will be bringing the board a proposal for a technology implementation plan that pushes our districts forward. The proposal includes the following:

- Purchasing over 700 Samsung Chromebooks, providing one computing device for every 4th thru 12th grade student to use both at school and at home.
- Provide classroom sets of Chromebooks and IPADs for both 2nd and 3rd grades to share in each building.
- Ensure that every kindergarten and 1st grade classroom has 6-10 IPADs in the room permanently so that teachers can count on using them.

Superintendent's Scoop continued on

Breakfast & Lunch Menus for March 2013

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><i>Skim & 1% Milk, Juice and Fresh Fruit served daily for breakfast!</i> <i>Skim, White & Chocolate or 1% milk served daily for lunch!</i></p> <p><i>*Available at high school only</i> S.M.B = School Made Buns</p>				<p>1 BCIG B: Cheese Omelet WG Toast BCIG L: Cheese Pizza, Cooked Carrots, Broccoli Salad, Jello, Mixed Fruit, Fresh Apple</p> <p>OA B: Breakfast wrap OA L: Fish Shapes, Butter, Sweet Potatoes, Peas, Gold Fish, Blueberry Applesauce</p>
<p>4 BCIG B: Bacon Scramble Breakfast Pizza BCIG L: BBQ Pork Rib on WG Bun, Spinach Salad w/ Tomatoes, Peas, Pineapple, Fresh Apple OA B: Breakfast Pizza OA L: Popcorn Chicken, WG S.M.B., Cooked Carrots, Red Pepper Strips, Apple</p>	<p>5 BCIG B: Assorted Cereal WG Toast BCIG L: French Toast Stix, Sausage, Hashbrowns, Baby Carrots, Mandarin Oranges, Fresh Apple OA B: Banana Muffin, String Cheese OA L: Egg Omelet, Tator Tots, Clementine, Cherries, Blueberry Muffin</p>	<p>6 BCIG B: Egg Patty, Sausage, WG Toast BCIG L: Lasagna, Fresh Vegetable Bar, Green Beans, Brownies, Pears, Fresh Apple OA B: Nutri Grain Bar, Yogurt OA L: Turkey Burger / WG Bun, Baby Carrots, Peaches, Brownie</p>	<p>7 BCIG B: Cinnamon Pastrie, Assorted Cereal BCIG L: Crispito, Spanish Rice, Lettuce, Tomato, Refried Beans, Salsa, Peaches, *PB Sandwich, Fresh Orange OA B: Pancake on Stick OA L: Mandarin Orange Chicken, Br. Rice, Broccoli, Garbonzo Bean Salad, Pineapple</p>	<p>8 No School</p>
<p>11 BCIG B: WG Pancakes BCIG L: Cheeseburger / WG Bun, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Apricots, Apple OA B: Maple Waffles OA L: Maidrites / WG Bun, Green Beans, Pepper Strips, Apple Crisp, Pears</p>	<p>12 BCIG B: WG Cereal Bar, Yogurt BCIG L: Chicken Alfredo, Steamed Broccoli, Cooked Carrots, Dinner Roll, Applesauce Cup, Orange OA B: Poptarts, Boiled Eggs OA L: Chicken Nuggets, WG S.M.B., Corn Broccoli, Blueberries</p>	<p>13 BCIG B: Breakfast Wrap, Salsa BCIG L: WG Chicken Nuggets, Fresh Veggie Bar, Peas, Mixed Fruit, *PB Sandwich, Banana OA B: Cinnamon Roll OA L: Beef Tips, Mashed Potatoes, 4 Bean Salad, Pepper Strips, Baby Carrots, Pineapple</p>	<p>14 BCIG B: Assorted Cereal, Oatmeal to Go BCIG L: Sausage Pizza, Corn, Marinated Fresh Veggie Salad, Pineapple, Fresh Apple OA B: Sausage, Cheese Bagel OA L: Cheese Bread Stick, Marinara Sauce, Strawberry Spinach Salad, Banana</p>	<p>15 No School</p>
<p>18 BCIG B: Breakfast Bites, Egg Patty BCIG L: Tacos, Lettuce, Tomato Salsa, Refried Beans, Pears, Fresh Orange OA B: Blueberry Waffles OA L: Pepperoni Pizza, Romaine Salad, Baby Carrots, Choc Pudding, Pears</p>	<p>19 BCIG B: Assorted Cereal, WG Toast BCIG L: Mandarin Orange Chicken, Brown Rice, Cooked Carrots, Broccoli Salad, Peaches, Apple OA B: Cereal Bar, Yogurt OA L: Bean / Cheese Burrito Broccoli, Corn, Radishes, Pineapple</p>	<p>20 BCIG B: Egg Patty, Bacon, WG Toast BCIG L: Mostaccioli, Fresh Veggie Bar, Mixed Vegetables, Mandarin Oranges, Fresh Banana OA B: Breakfast Pizza OA L: Breaded Pork Patty / WGB, Cooked Carrots, Cherries, Blueberries</p>	<p>21 BCIG B: Cereal, Cinnamon Streusel Coffeecake BCIG L: Chicken Patty / WG Bun, Broccoli Slaw, Potato Wedges, Apricots, Fresh Grapes OA B: Egg / Ham Cheese on WGB OA L: Turkey Taco Bag, Lettuce, Tomato, Salsa, Apple, Pudding</p>	<p>22 BCIG B: Cheese Omelet, WG Toast BCIG L: Grilled Cheese, Tomato Soup, Baby Carrots, Cucumber Slices, Applesauce, Orange OA B: Nutri-grain bar, cereal OA L: Macaroni Cheese, Green Beans, Romaine Salad, Mixed Fruit, BB</p>
<p>25 BCIG B: WG Bagel w / Cream Cheese, Yogurt BCIG L: Turkey Burger / WG Bun, Baked Beans, Marinated Fresh Veggie Salad, Pineapple, Apple OA B: Strawberry Pancake OA L: Chicken Sand. WGB, Green Beans, Cucumbers, Cauliflower, Apple</p>	<p>26 BCIG B: Assorted Cereal WG Pop Tart BCIG L: Ham Slice, Au gratin Potatoes, Corn, Choc. Pudding, Mixed Fruit, Bread-Butter, Orange OA B: Blueberry Muffin, Cheesestick OA L: Chicken Fajita, Romaine Salad / WG shell, Apple Crisp</p>	<p>27 BCIG B: Breakfast Wrap, Salsa BCIG L: Pork Patty / WG Bun, Fresh Veggie Bar, Green Beans, Peaches, Fresh Apple OA B: Cinnamon Roll OA L: Hamburger / WG Bun, Buttered Sweet Potato, Corn, Red Pepper Strips, Banana</p>	<p>28 BCIG B: Cereal, Ultimate Breakfast Round BCIG L: WG Cheesestix w / Marinara, Cooked Carrots, Spinach Salad w / Tomatoes, Pears, Fresh Apple OA B: Breakfast Wrap OA L: Hot Dog / WG Bun, Baked Beans, Romaine Salad, Applesauce</p>	<p>29 No School</p>

This plan is very aggressive and will push both our students and our staff to change the way we think about education. We will be focusing on pushing our kids to build capacity as problem solvers and creators. We will be supporting our changing technological environment with a Director of Innovation and Technology Integration to work side by side with our teachers to ensure that we are providing all of our students with the necessary skills to be competitive in the 21st Century, no matter where they choose to work or live.

I know over the past couple of months our school districts have come up against some difficult decisions. I know that some of these decisions have not always been the most popular, but one thing I do know is that we are doing everything we can to make decisions that are in the best interests of kids and will provide for stable school districts long into the future. If you should ever have any questions about either of the two districts, please do not hesitate to call or email. I would be more than happy to sit down with anyone in the communities to answer questions. I can be reached in BCIG at (712) 364-2255, in OA at (712) 668-2289, or via email at nouvellette@oabcig.org.

HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

PATRICK MILLER, Principal

TECHNOLOGY, TEENS, KINDNESS AND CRUELTY ON SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

As many of you know we are looking at going with 1 to 1 technology in the near future. As with all things connected with success at school we look to you as parents to help us educate your child. In recent days I have accessed some articles via Twitter that dealt with a number of items related to social media.

I am sure many of your children, as well as yourself, are members of the Facebook Community. I am also sure many of you have witnessed bullying type behavior on that, and other, social networking sites. Unfortunately this is a common behavior among both teens and adults. According to information released by the Pew Research Center, 88% of teens have reported they have witnessed people being mean and cruel to another person on social media. In a similar study, 69% of adults report the same.

A few more stats:

*95% of all teens ages 12-17 are now online.

*80% of online teens are users of social media sites.

*90% of teen social media users say they have ignored the mean behavior they have witnessed on a social media network.

*80% say they have personally defended a victim of meanness and cruelty.

*79% say they have told someone to stop.

*21 % have joined in on the harassment of others on social media.

*15% have stated they were the target of cruelty on social media.

Please remind your child to treat all people with respect, set a good example, and work with the school to create a positive social media presence for all.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN SPORTSMANSHIP

- Praise athletes in their attempt to improve themselves as students, as athletes and as people.
- Remember that a ticket to an interscholastic athletic event is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally assault others and be generally obnoxious.
- Support all members of the team, too often parents fall into the trap of only supporting their child, or wanting their child to get the stats. All athletes have a role on the team, and it takes good role players to make a great team.
- Learn the rules of the game.
- Refrain from taunting or making any kind of derogatory remarks to your opponents during the game.
- Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Understand that they are doing their best to help promote the student-athlete and admire their willingness to participate in full view of the public.
- Be a positive behavior role model through your own actions.

HIGH SCHOOL PROM

The OA-BCIG Junior-Senior prom will be Saturday, April 20, 2013, at the Skate Palace in Ida Grove. In the coming weeks work will begin for the various committees to make plans to have another spectacular event. All Juniors need to check the spreadsheet for their prom point status, then ensure they get involved to earn any additional points that are needed. All juniors will have opportunity to earn additional prom points by getting involved in committees, helping out on the work days, and decorating that week.

The junior class will be meeting over the next few weeks as committees, designing invitations for prom, planning the menu, and wrapping up details for décor. The theme will be "Red White & Blues" with unique graphics of a flag and the blues are actually denim. Denim will be used in table runners and the blue jean pockets will be used to smartly hold red floral arrangements on the table top and off the edge of the tables with lots of candles as centerpieces. The skating rink will be enclosed with white pipe and drape, and up-lit with red and blue, a new look for the banquet and dance. Some of the chair covers will be white this year with a mix of red and black linen tablecloths. The Ida Grove Community Hall will once again be used for the Grand March kicking off the prom.

FOUNDATION FOLLIES

OABCIG Dollars for Scholars will be sponsoring the "Foundation Follies", a talent show and service auction fundraiser, on Saturday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the high school. All money raised will go towards scholarships for OABCIG students. This is a great opportunity for students of all ages to get involved in a Dollars for Scholars event and use these hours as community service and points on your scholarship application. Students can become involved in many ways:

- 1) Sharing a talent
- 2) Selling a specific service at the service auction
- 3) Serving cookies and juice or taking tickets
- 4) Helping with set up and take down

We hope you all come out for a fun evening of fundraising for the OABCIG Dollars for Scholars scholarships!

CHOIR ROBE FUNDRAISER

The OABCIG Music Boosters are purchasing new robes for the OABCIG High School Choir. The current, well-worn, robes are 20-40 years old. The Music Boosters are seeking sponsors to help reduce the expense for the 130+ needed robes. The cost of one new robe is over \$125.00. We would like the new robes to debut in the fall of 2013, or sooner. Suggested sponsorship amounts are listed below. If you or your business would be interested in being a choir robe sponsor, please complete and return this form or contact Mrs. Johnson at the high school (364-3371). Thank you for supporting the arts!

Name of Sponsor _____

Address of Sponsor _____

Amount of Donation or Level of Sponsorship:

___ Silver (\$25) ___ Purple (\$50) ___ Black (\$100)

Mail to:

Choir Robe Fundraiser

OABCIG Music Department (Choir Robe Fundraiser) Attn: OABCIG Music Boosters

900 John Montgomery Drive, Ida Grove, IA 51445

Sponsors will be acknowledged in upcoming concert programs and other locations.

SENIOR VIDEO

Candid group pictures from elementary, middle, and high school are needed of the Class of 2013 for the senior video. Make sure the photos are labeled with your name and which school year it is from. They need to be turned in to Mrs. Beck by April 1st. Once they have been scanned, they will be returned. Photos can also be emailed to her at hbeck@oabcig.org. The video will be shown at the Senior Awards Banquet and each member of the graduating class will also receive a copy of it.

YEARBOOK SALES ENDING SOON

Time is running out to order your 2012-2013 OABCIG yearbook! Yearbooks feature school portraits of all students in the district from preschool-seniors, faculty, extracurricular groups/teams, and high school events/activities throughout the school year. Books can be ordered through April 15th and the cost is \$50.

Order online and pay using a credit card by going to www.jostensyearbooks.com or click the link on the school website www.oabcig.org. To purchase using cash or check, send payment to the high school attention Heidi Beck. Questions . . . call 364-3371 or email hbeck@oabcig.org.



GUIDANCE NOTES, MARY SCHROEDER, Counselor

JUNIORS - ASVAB TESTING - MARCH 13

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a multiple aptitude test battery. ASVAB will be given to all juniors the morning of Wednesday, March 13. It consists of eight short individual tests covering general science, arithmetic reasoning, word knowledge, paragraph comprehension, mathematics reasoning, electronics information, auto and shop information and mechanical comprehension. In addition to scores on each of these individual tests, students will receive career exploration scores. The scores are the results of individual tests combined to yield three career exploration scores. A copy of the ASVAB Career Exploration Program Overview Guide will be given to each student to take home.

EARNING COLLEGE CREDIT WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL

Senior Year Plus (SYP) is the program provided through the State of Iowa and available to students at OA-BCIG that allows students to take college classes that earn them college credit while in high school. OA-BCIG students in grades 9-12 have the opportunity to take classes under the SYP program in several ways. Juniors and seniors are eligible, as well as TAG students in grades 9-12. State law requires high school students to be proficient in reading, mathematics and science in the most recent Iowa Assessments to be eligible to enroll in the following SYP courses: PSEO, concurrent enrollment or career academy courses. Students planning to enroll in career & technical education (CTE) courses are exempt from the proficiency requirements on the Iowa Assessments, but they must meet any other expectations set by the community college offering the course.

OA-BCIG students have several options at their disposal for taking SYP classes. Some classes are taught in the high school such as Composition I, Composition II, CNA, Excel/Access, Word/PowerPoint, Introduction to Agricultural Business and Survey of the Animal Industry. Another option is taking online computer based classes, with a list of possible classes found in the high school guidance office. Interested students wishing to take SYP classes for fall semester classes must register with the high school counselor by April 15, and for spring semester by October 15.

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Seniors should be busy completing scholarship applications. Monthly scholarship lists are distributed to all seniors. Many local scholarships are now available for students to apply for. Some scholarship applications are found in the senior's drop boxes and some are found in the high school guidance office. All seniors are encouraged to apply, making sure they complete them by the various application deadlines. The OA-BCIG Dollars for Scholars scholarship, available for all graduating seniors, is due to the high school office by 3:29 p.m. Thursday, March 14, 2013. Make sure all applications are done neatly, without spelling and grammatical errors.

ACT TESTING DATES / REGISTRATION

<u>Test Dates</u>	<u>Regular Deadline</u>
April 13, 2013	March 8, 2013
June 8, 2013	May 8, 2013
School Code – 162-129	
www.actstudent.org	



2013-2014 ACT TEST DATES

September 21, 2013
October 26, 2013
December 14, 2013
February 8, 2014
April 12, 2014
June 14, 2014

MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSES TONY SPRADLIN, Principal

YOUTH ART MONTH YAM SIOUX CITY

OA-BCIG 6th, 7th, & 8th grade art students were invited to design their most creative artworks for the Sioux City Art Center's 24th Annual Juried Youth Art Exhibition: Middle School, 2013 scheduled for February 16 – April 7, 2013. All work was juried by an art professional for inclusion in the exhibition. All students participating in the exhibit were given a certificate of achievement.

Mally Sangpanjun (8th) textile with acorns, Ashley Lindner (6th) Styrofoam monument, Alyssa Mason (6th) fused glass, Zane Sohm (6th) copper enameling, Madison Schiernbeck (6th) encaustic, Gage Thoreson (6th) sun print, Aedan Hickey (8th) charcoal drawing, Courtney Peters (8th) textile with leaves and Daltyn Swanger (7th) Formica & vinyl

Following the jurying, Mally Sangpanjun's textile was accepted into the show. She was honored at a reception February 17th. Her artwork will be framed for her keeping thanks to the generosity of the Sioux City Art Center.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair will be in the Odebolt building during the week of Parent-Teacher conferences. Books for both the elementary and middle school levels will be featured at the book fair. The location is the OA Elementary library. The dates and times for the fair are: Monday, March 11th through Thursday March 14th during the school day and also the evenings of March 12th and March 14th from 4:00 until 7:30 p.m. during PT conferences. Check the school website and library catalog the week before the fair for links to Scholastic Book Fair information.

VOCAL MUSIC

OA-BCIG Middle School music students spent the month of February putting the finishing touches on selections for their Pops Concert at the end of the month. They put on an energetic show full of popular tunes from movies, Broadway shows, and the radio.

Seventeen 7th and 8th graders also represented OA-BCIG at the Western Valley Conference Honor Choir Festival held at Lawton-Bronson Jr.-Sr. High School on February 25th. Elizabeth Adams, Elliott Bengford, McKinna Faulkenberry, Amanda Gunderson, Dallas Hare, Aedan Hickey, Jatelyn Jessen, Madison Lansink, Taylor Marshall, Elle McCormick, Carrie Miller, Courtney Peters, Sadie Railsback, Dustin Samaniego, Daltyn Swanger, Ty Tollufsen, and Anna Van Dusen spent the day rehearsing five selections for an evening concert.

We hope to see you at a future performance!

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

The OABCIG Middle School Band program is hard at work nearing the busiest part of the year. All 24 of our O-A 5th graders are very enthusiastic and are making impressive progress as they prepare for their concert on April 9th. The 6th grade concert band of forty six students, and our 7-8 concert band of fifty eight students gave an outstanding performance at our Pops Concert. Now both bands are gearing up for Large Group Contest in Anthon on the April 27th. Last year, the bands received a rating of 'I+' and 'I', respectively. We are looking to continue our success this year.

The Jazz Band had an opportunity to participate in the NWIBA District Jazz Festival on February 18th. They also performed their program at our Pops Concert and will perform at Las Vegas night on March 21st. For full details on the jazz festival and all other Band and Choir events, please visit our NEW Blog at <http://oabcigmusic.blogspot.com>! There you will find pictures and narratives of what Mrs. Schiphoff and I have been up to in the classroom as well as schedules, reminders, forms, and other information to help you keep up with the music department.

This year we were thrilled to have four students chosen to participate in 32nd annual Buena Vista University Honor Band Festival on the February 23rd: Amanda Gunderson, Aedan Hickey, Cole Veltri, and Peter Hansen. These students spent close to six hours rehearsing with guest conductor Joe Hardin who currently directs the 6-8th grade concert bands at West Middle School in Sioux City, IA. The students gave a great concert that evening in Schaller Memorial Chapel on campus.

Fourteen members of the 7-8 grade band were chosen to participate in this year's Conference Honor Band on March 18th. They are: Amanda Gunderson, Sadie Railsback, Madison Lansink, Hannah Sorenson, Aedan Hickey, Courtney Peters, Anna VanDusen, Chase Devitt, Cole Veltri, Parker Clausen, Peter Hansen, Carrie Miller, Will Lozier, and Stephen Stangl. Students will spend the day under the direction of Curt Ohrlund, director of bands at LeMars Community High School. The concert is open to the public and will take place at 6PM at the high school in Merville.

All 6-8 band students have been working hard in preparation for the OABCIG Solo/Ensemble Festival. Each student participates by either performing a solo or duet. This event takes place at the Middle School building in the band and choir rooms after school from 4-6PM on March 5th. This is also open to the public, so come support your young musicians!

The music department is always looking for talented pianists to share their music ability with our students at OABCIG by accompanying concerts and solo/ensemble festival. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Mrs. Schiphoff at sschiphoff@oabcig.org or Mr. Anders at nanders@oabcig.org.

ELEMENTARY EDICTS & INTERMEDIATE INFORMER

ALAN HENDERSON, Principal

CAR OLYMPICS

Mrs. Rohlk's 5th grade science classes at Battle Creek-Ida Grove Intermediate School in Battle Creek will be holding their annual Car Olympics in the gym on March 28, 2013, following the DARE graduation. The 5th grade participants will display their creations of straws and paper and race them to see who developed cars that will travel the farthest.

To prepare for this event, the students are learning the concepts behind simple machines, motion, inclined planes and balloon power.

They are employed by "Rohlk Motors" and in the next few weeks, the students will be working on and test-driving their automobiles to perfect their design, construction, and motion.

Hope to see all racing fans there!



ELEMENTARY EDICTS

NEAL UTESCH, Principal

On March 4th, 5th, and 6th the elementary students will be taking their QRI test (Qualitative Reading Inventory Test) and their PAT (Phonemic Awareness Test). This test will help to monitor and to track the progress that students have made in reading over the school year and will establish a baseline of data that can be used by staff members to determine changes in instructional practices to enhance student achievement. The staff will report the scores and findings to parents at conference time.

Parent teacher conferences will be held on March 12th and 14th this spring. Your student's classroom teacher will contact parents by the end of February to schedule these conferences. As always, we look forward to meeting with you to visit about the success of your students at Odebolt-Arthur Elementary.

The O-A and BCIG school districts will take part in a district site visit on March 26th, 27th, and 28th. As part of Iowa's commitment to improve student learning, the Department of Education conducts detailed site visits every 5 years on public and private schools. Team members from the state department, as well as local educators & administrators will spend their time reviewing important documents and analyzing the school's data profiles, they will provide a general assessment of educational practices in the districts, make recommendations with regard to their findings, and help to determine if the school district is in compliance with the accreditation standards set by the state of Iowa.

Students from Odebolt-Arthur Elementary & OA-BCIG Middle School will participate in the Smarter Balance Pilot Assessment during the month of April. This assessment will be a new Iowa Assessment in the spring of 2015. Currently we are scheduled for the following testing dates and grade levels:

3rd Grade English/LA – April 15th – April 26th (3 Hours of Testing to Complete)

4th Grade English/LA – April 15th – April 26th (3 Hours of Testing to Complete)

6th Grade Math – April 1st – April 12th (1 Hour and 45 Min. of Testing to Complete)

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

First Day of Spring – March 20th

March Birthday Club Celebration – March 22nd

“On a Roll” Celebration on March 28th

Spring Break – March 29th – April 1st

K-5 VOCAL MUSIC

Odebolt-Arthur Elementary students have kept busy in the music room! Kindergarten and first graders spent time learning, reading, and writing rhythms using whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes and rests. They wrote some fun Valentine rhythms to each other to practice these note and rest values. Second graders worked diligently to learn how to read music notes on the staff this month. Each student wrote their own mnemonic to help remember the lines and the spaces of the treble clef. Third, fourth, and fifth grade students have begun preparations on their spring musical, *The Principal and the Pea*, which they will present on April 9th in the Odebolt gym.

CURRICULUM CLIPS

Neal Utesch, Curriculum Director

I have enrolled the OA and BCIG school districts for the Smarter Balance Assessment Trial that will take place this spring 2013. What exactly is the Smarter Balance Assessment? Smarter Balanced is a state-led consortium developing assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards in English language arts/literacy and mathematics that are designed to help prepare all students to graduate high school college- and career-ready. To learn more about Smarter Balance, you can visit the web site at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/about/> and read the posted monthly updates that are given on this assessment.

Our districts were notified in February take part in this testing trial and look forward to giving this test to a select group of students. Students from Odebolt-Arthur Elementary & OA-BCIG Middle School will participate in the Smarter Balance Pilot Assessment during the month of April. This assessment will be a new Iowa Assessment in the spring of 2015. Currently we are scheduled for the following testing dates and grade levels:

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6th Grade Math – April 1st – April 12th (1 Hour and 45 Min. of Testing to Complete)

Students from OA-BCIG high school have also been selected to take the assessments. Students in grade 9 will take the English/LA test around the same time frame as the other grade levels that were selected.

The administrative team as well as the district leadership team members has been completing a book study on Professional Learning Communities (PLC's). These book studies are designed to give insight to the effective use and application of PLC's as we move toward working collaboratively across the district and at the building level to address student needs as well as district needs related to student achievement and teacher performance. As part of the responsibilities of these participants, they will help to lead

our discussions in our professional development time next year as we begin to develop our professional learning communities across the district. The books that are being studied at this time are:

Administrative Book: *“The School Leader’s Guide to Professional Learning Communities at Work”*

By: Richard & Rebecca Dufour

District Leadership Team Book: *“Learning by Doing: A Handbook for Professional Learning Communities at Work”*

By: Richard & Rebecca Dufour, Robert Eaker, and Thomas Many

The O-A and BCIG school districts will take part in a district site visit on March 26th, 27th, and 28th. As part of Iowa’s commitment to improve student learning, the Department of Education conducts detailed site visits every 5 years on public and private schools. Team members from the state department, as well as local educators & administrators will spend their time reviewing important documents and analyzing the school’s data profiles, they will provide a general assessment of educational practices in the districts, make recommendations with regard to their findings, and help to determine if the school district is in compliance with the accreditation standards set by the state of Iowa. We look forward to their visit and the input that they may provide to improve our educational practices.

LEADERSHIP AND THE COMMON CORE:

What exactly is the role of the school leader in implementing the Iowa (Common) Core? When considering the common core the work of leaders is to establish a vision of high expectations for all learners, cultivate a culture of learning, engage in and support continuous learning and improvement, and involve parents and community stakeholders, which remains constant. With the implementation of the Common Core will a new approach to the context for this work, which is the Iowa Core. For example, our vision should reflect expectations for all students to be college and career ready as articulated in the Core; and the cycle of continuous improvement should revolve around the Core.

The Common Core points out to us new ways of teaching and learning and addresses what needs to be elevated, which is the leader’s role as learner. A Leaders’ first step should be to read and re-read the Common Core and its appendices. Then, any of these 12 targets could be the next step/s, depending upon the needs and context of a particular building or district. Learning new standards and new instructional approaches will take months and years; and both short-term and long-term action plans will be important. As printed in the SAI update here is a sampling of the action steps that could be adopted by districts as they work to adopt and implement the Common Core. (Dana Schon, SAI Professional Learning Director)

CHANGE #1: CULTURE

- Engage in frequent conversations about learning with your staff
- Structure and support collaborative conversations
- Build an Iowa Core implementation leadership team with whom you can plan professional development

CHANGE #2: LITERACY INSTRUCTION (significant focus on writing)

- Find ways to implement a cross-curricular approach
- Increase time students spend writing
- Support teachers in learning effective ways for teaching writing

CHANGE #3: TEXT COMPLEXITY AND INFORMATIONAL TEXT

- Analyze your library and classroom collections to determine the quantitative (Lexile or other) level and compare to the bands in Appendix A—are your students reading increasingly complex texts?

CHANGE #4: CLOSE READING AND TEXT-BASED RESPONSE

- Analyze assessment data and ensure all staff know the reading comprehension levels of their students
- With your leadership team, plan for professional development in this area
- Analyze teacher-developed formative and summative assessments with regard to expectations for close reading and text-based responses

CHANGE #5: WRITING ACROSS CONTENT AREAS

- Emphasize the importance of writing with teachers, parents, and students
- Adopt a school wide writing rubric and work with feeder schools to develop consistency
- Ask students to respond in complete sentences in every classroom

CHANGE #6: MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTION

- Assess whether your current mathematics instructional practices align to expectations in the Core

CHANGE #7: STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND COLLABORATION

- Engage the leadership team in discussing “Mathematics Mindsets”
- Develop a definition of student engagement with your leadership team
- Develop protocols that will encourage engagement

CHANGE #8: INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

- Discuss with teachers ways that they are extending learning time and learning opportunities
- Discuss with teachers ways that they are extending learning time and learning opportunities

CHANGE #9: CREATE-AND-LEARN VERSUS SIT-AND-GET

- With your leadership team, develop a set of agreed-upon, defined, school wide instructional practices that address the lesson structure; expectations for frequency of checks for understanding; expectations around differentiation and project-based learning; and guidelines for inclusion of close reading and argumentative writing.

CHANGE #10: PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

- With your leadership team, discuss professional development needs
- Establish at least three but not more than five areas of focus
- Create short- and long-term (minimum of three years) plans for professional learning

CHANGE #11: ASSESSMENT

- Make use of common assessments

CHANGE #12: TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

- Ask teacher teams to develop collaboratively pacing guides and common formative and summative assessments
- Ensure technology is carefully integrated with writing instruction. • Identify the specific technology skills needed at each grade level. (Dana Schon, SAI Professional Learning Director)

AIW TRAINING AND OA-BCIG SCHOOLS:

Both the O-A and BCIG school districts have put together a team of teachers (12 total) to be trained in AIW (Authentic Intellectual Work). AIW team members (including the administrator) participate in and AIW Kick-off Institute (September 5 and 6, 2013). The goal of this professional development initiative is increase student learning by engaging students in authentic intellectual work. Authentic Intellectual Work (AIW) is defined by three criteria-construction of knowledge, through disciplined inquiry, to produce discourse, products, and performance that have value beyond school. Pat Miller will be the lead coach for this team of teachers and support will come from the other members of the administrative team. Work for this team will begin next fall after the kick-off. AIW teams meet 4-6 hours or more each month of the school year to engage in scoring, revising, creating, and being involved in extended learning opportunities to progress AIW.

The AIW framework establishes criteria for teaching that:

- Maximize expectations of intellectual challenge for all students
- Increase student interest in academic work
- Supports teachers' taking time to teach for in-depth understanding, rather than superficial coverage of materials
- Provide a common conception of student intellectual work that promotes professional community among teachers of different grade levels and subjects
- It will equip students to address the complex intellectual challenges of work, civic participation, and managing personal affairs in the contemporary world

Significant features of AIW include the following:

- Teachers, administrators, liaisons and coaches form professional learning communities focused on the successful implementation of AIW
- Leadership is provided with additional support through Leadership Meetings that focus on expansion within a school, appropriate allocation of resources, and deep understanding of the AIW framework.
- Instructional personnel develop a common vision of quality instruction that is supported by research and aimed at improving student achievement.
- Teachers apply AIW to everyday classroom practices.
- Teachers become more introspective and reflective of their instructional practices.

The purpose of the AIW Initiative is to make clear connections between the Iowa Core Curriculum and Authentic Intellectual Work (AIW). It highlights examples of how the knowledge and skills gained through participation in AIW builds capacity to implement each of the Iowa Core Curriculum outcomes. Support for this initiative will come from the NWEA (Northwest Area Education Agency) and local school board members.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR & IMPORTANT DATES:

March 8	½ Day PD (8am-12pm)	ICAT (K-12) (Led by Administrators & District Leadership Team Members)
March 20	1:30 pm	Analyze ICAT Results at Building Level (Align Common Core with Findings from I-CAT)
April 10	1:30 pm	Test Item Analysis (ITBS)
May 1	1:30 pm	Alignment of Science Core Standards with Current Curriculum will take place at Building Levels

OA-BCIG MUSIC BOOSTER'S LAS VEGAS NIGHT Thursday, March 21, 2013

***Dinner begins at 5:00pm

***Games in the gym from 6pm to 8pm

***Chance booth - drawings begin at 7:30pm

***Raffle drawings to follow

ENTERTAINMENT BEGINS AT 6:10pm

High School Dance Team

Middle School Swing Choir

High School Show Choir

Middle School Jazz Band

High School Jazz Band



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SCHOLARS[®]
A Program of Scholarship America[®]

Foundation Follies

Talent Show & Service Auction
Fundraiser




Saturday, March 9 • 7:00 p.m.

OABCIG High School

Adults and students of all ages will perform a variety of talent including music, dance, comedy and adult skits that are sure to be entertaining! Students have donated baked items, cleaning, yard work, washing cars and odd jobs for the Service Auction. This is a great time to make a donation.

Admission: Adults \$5.00 • Students \$3.00
Tickets at all school offices & at the door

Activity Calendar for March 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2 8:00am Booster Club 6-8 Boys BB Tourney @ Odebolt 8:00am District FFA Convention @ Sioux Central HS
3	4 Boys State Basketball Tournament @ Des Moines	5 Hoagie Sales End 3:30pm - 6:30pm MS Solo Band Contest @ Odebolt Boys State BB Tourney @ Des Moines	6 Boys State BB Tourney @ Des Moines	7 End of 3rd Qtr. Boys State BB Tourney @ Des Moines	8 No School Workday / PD	9 State Individual Speech Contest 7:00pm Foundation Follies Talent Show / Service Auction @ HS Cafeteria
10 	11 OA Elem. & MS Book Fair @ Odebolt 6:30pm School Board Mtg.	12 2:30pm Dismissal OA Elem. & MS Book Fair @ Odebolt 4:00pm - 7:30pm Parent-Teacher Conferences	13 *9:00am - 12:00pm ASVAB Testing - Juniors only *MS Quarter Holiday *OA Elem. & MS Book Fair @ Odebolt *6:00pm Athletic Booster Club Meeting @ HS	14 2:30pm Dismissal *Magic Math Program *OA Elem. & MS Book Fair @ Odebolt 4:00pm - 7:30pm Parent - Teacher Conferences	15 No Classes	16 *MS Band Solo Contest @ Storm Lake *9:00am - 2:00pm OA-BCIG Dance Clinic @ HS *10:00am WVC Indoor Track Meet @ Storm Lake *7:00pm OA-BCIG Dance Night @ HS
17 	18 WVC Band Festival @ Merville 3:30pm Hoagie Assembly @ Odebolt	19 3:30pm - 5:30pm Hoagie Assembly @ Odebolt gym	20 1:00 Dismissal Professional Development	21 WVC Art Show @ Onawa 5:00pm - 9:00pm Las Vegas Night @ HS Gym & Cafeteria - IG	22 7:00pm - 10:00pm MS Dance @ Odebolt	23 USD Indoor Track Meet @ Vermillion, SD
24/31	25 All-State Individual Speech Festival 7:00pm FFA Banquet @ HS Cafeteria - IG	26 Dept. of Educ. Site Visit @ Odebolt 4:30pm. Track Meet - Ridge View Relays @ Holstein	27 Dept. of Educ. Site Visit @ Odebolt High School Student Council Blood Drive - IG	28 2:00pm DARE Graduation & Car Olympics @ Battle Creek gymnasium	29 No Classes - Spring Break	30



To Postal Patron

19TH ANNUAL WHITEY THOMPSON HIKE-BIKE-A-THON

WHEN: Wednesday, May 1, 2013

WHERE: Starts and ends at Skate Palace in Ida Grove

Prizes: Chance to win bike, Nike shoes, and Chamber bucks
T-shirt to all participants with 15 sponsor letters

Safety: Bank employees and volunteers stationed along the route.

Refreshments: After the event at the Skate Palace

Transportation: Bikes and kids will be picked up in Battle Creek and Odebolt and transported to Ida Grove

How it works:

- Students will receive brochure/consent form the week of March 4th.
- When student brings signed consent form back to school, they get a packet of sponsor letters.
- Complete sponsor letters and return to any school or United Bank of Iowa office by March 25.

NOTE: It is very important to return sponsor letters by March 25. The letters are sent as a bulk mailing, so late packets cause delays and cost extra postage. Students who turn in packets late may not get a T-shirt.

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE OABCIG DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS FOUNDATION

HOAGIE SALES

OA-BCIG Athletes Hoagie Sales to Begin – OA-BCIG High School and Middle School students will once again be selling hoagie sandwiches February 19 through Tuesday, March 5, with assembly/pick-up/delivery date of March 19. They will be sold in multiples of 2 with a cost of \$3.00 each and a minimum order of 4 hoagies. The famous Hoagie is a 6-inch sandwich on a Hy-Vee bakery fresh bun, made with 3 meats and 2 slices of cheese.

Since 1987, a total of 162,500 sandwiches have been sold with 2012 being the best year so far with 12,632 Hoagies being sold.

This is the major moneymaker each year for the athletic department. The funds are used to purchase uniforms, equipment, etc., for all athletes.

Please call your favorite OA-BCIG student or call the middle school at 668-2827 to order your delicious hoagies today!

OA Central Office

712-668-2289

BCIG Central Office

712-364-3687

OABCIG High School

712-364-3371

OABCIG Middle School

712-668-2827

BCIG Intermediate School

712-365-4354

OA Elementary School

712-668-2827

BCIG Elementary School

712-364-2360

Federal and state laws as well as OABCIG policies prohibit employment and/or public accommodation discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, socioeconomic status or veteran's status. If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 800-457-4416.