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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***

As discussed in the last newsletter the district has been looking as a new technology integration plan that will provide access for students at all grade levels. On Monday, March 11th, both Boards voted to purchase additional computing devices for both districts.

THE DEVICE PLAN

The Device Plan includes a mixed platform of devices. Meaning we will be using both Apple and Google products to meet the needs of our students. We feel using a blended approach provides the districts with the most access for students while also being able to change with the ever-changing technological environment. Below is listed the devices and grade levels represented in the plan.

- 4th-12th Grade
 - 1:1 Google Chromebooks
- 2nd-3rd Grade
 - 1 Chromebook Cart
- 1 iPad Cart
- Kindergarten - 1st Grade
 - 6 iPads in each classroom

WHY IMPLEMENT?

Many people have asked why implement such a strong integration plan? The answer is we want students to have access to the tools needed to become successful productive members of society in the 21st Century. Students will work collaboratively on authentic problem and project-based activities, which enhance creativity, critical thinking, communication, and problem solving. Through personalized, authentic, and collaborative experiences our students will develop the skills to prepare them for a future that we can only imagine.


Adapted from Richland Schools 2013

WHAT WILL THEY BE DOING?

The students at all grade levels will be doing a wide range of things with the devices. Some of the things listed below are already being done in classrooms on a limited basis because of lack of access to technology. We plan on our teachers implementing any combination of the following as they work to help each and every student reach his or her fullest potential.

- Project-Based Learning
- Flipped Classrooms
- ePortfolio Creation
- Online Collaboration
- Publishing
- Virtual Field Trips
- eTextbooks and eBooks
- Online Assessments
- Multimedia Production
- Podcasting
- Technology used for intervention
- Technology integrated in core content

Breakfast & Lunch Menus for April 2013

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>1 No School</p>	<p>2 BCIG B: Assorted Cereal Nutri-Grain Bar BCIG L: BBQ Chicken Breast, WG Bun, Sweet Potato Fries, Green-Beans, Mandarin Oranges, Fresh Apple OA B: Breakfast Cookie OA L: Maidrite, Peas, Baby Carrots, Apricots, Orange, Animal Cracker</p>	<p>3 BCIG B: Cheese Omelet, WG Toast BCIG L: Cheeseburger Macaroni, Fresh Veggie Bar, WG Roll, Apple-sauce Cup, Orange OA B: Pancake on Stick OA L: Popcorn chicken, Cooked Carrots, Red Pepper Strips, Banana, WG S.M.B.</p>	<p>4 BCIG B: Assorted Cereal, Cinnamon Bun BCIG L: Hamburger, WG Bun, Sliced Cheese, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Apricots, Fresh Grapes OA B: Cereal Bar, Yogurt OA L: Sausage Pizza, Romaine Salad, Ranch, Broccoli, Pears, Vanilla Pudding</p>	<p>5 BCIG B: Breakfast Taco, Salsa BCIG L: Beef Tips, Mashed Potatoes, Peas, Butter Sandwich, Pineapple, Fresh Apple OA B: Breakfast Wrap OA L: Wiener Winks, Pretzels, Corn, Tropical Fruit</p>
<p>8 BCIG B: WG Pancakes, Sausage Links BCIG L: Orange Chicken, Brown Rice, Cooked Carrots, Broccoli Salad, Mixed Fruit, Apple OA B: Cinn. Pastries OA L: Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, RomSalad, Mixed Fruit, Applesauce</p>	<p>9 BCIG B: WG Bagel w/ Cream Cheese, Yogurt BCIG L: Taco-in-a-Bag, Black Bean Salad, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Salsa, *PB Sand. Applesauce, Fresh Orange OA B: Blueberry Muffin OA L: Softshell Taco, Refried Beans, Cheese, Clementine, Apple Crisp</p>	<p>10 BCIG B: Breakfast Wrap, Salsa BCIG L: Turkey & Cheese Sandwich, *Mixed Veggies, Fresh Veggie Bar, Peaches, Fresh Apple OA B: Cinnamon Roll OA L: Egg Omelet, Potato Wedges, OJ, Banana Muffin, Pears</p>	<p>11 BCIG B: Assorted Cereal, Oatmeal to Go BCIG L: Pepperoni Pizza, Corn, Marinated Fresh Veggie Salad, Pears, Strawberries & Bananas OA B: Maple Waffles OA L: Orange Chicken, Br. Rice, Broccoli, Rom. Salad Pineapple, Apricots</p>	<p>12 BCIG B: Egg Patty, Sausage, WG Toast BCIG L: Tavern/WG Bun, Tator Tots, Green Beans, Pineapple, Fresh Orange OA B: Sausage Cheese Bagel OA L: Chicken Quesadilla, Spanish Rice, Cucumbers, Carrots, Mixed Fruit,</p>
<p>15 BCIG B: Bacon Scramble Breakfast Pizza BCIG L: Chicken Patty, WG Bun, Steamed Broccoli, Baby Carrots, Mandarin Oranges, Apple OA B: Breakfast Pizza OA L: BBQ Chicken Salad, Peas, Broccoli, Baby Carrots, Green Pepper Strips, Apple</p>	<p>16 BCIG B: Assorted Cereal, WG Toast BCIG L: BBQ Pulled Pork, WG Bun, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Applesauce Cup, Orange OA B: Nutri Grain Bar, Yogurt OA L: Roast Beef Sandwich, Baked Beans, Peaches, Rice Krispy Bar</p>	<p>17 BCIG B: Cheese Omelet, WG Toast BCIG L: Tuna Casserole, Fresh Veggie Bar, Corn, *Bread Slice, Mixed Fruit, Apple OA B: Blueberry Waffle OA L: Spaghetti, Green Beans, Cauliflower, Rom. Salad, Banana</p>	<p>18 BCIG B: Assorted Cereal, Breakfast Round BCIG L: Breakfast Wrap, Salsa, Potatoes, *Cherry Tomatoes, Celery, Uncrustable, Mixed Melon, OA B: French Toast stix OA L: Grilled Cheese, Mari. Veggie Salad, Cucumbers, Rom Salad, Corn, Strawberries</p>	<p>19 BCIG B: Egg Patty, Ham Slice, WG Toast BCIG L: Teriyaki Chicken, Seasoned Rice, Spinach Salad w/ Tomatoes, Cooked Carrots, WG Roll, Apricots, OA B: Omelet, Toast OA L: Corn Dog, Baked Chips, Broccoli, Cinn. Applesauce, Sherbert</p>
<p>22 BCIG B: WG Waffle, Sausage Links BCIG L: Hot Dog, WG Bun, Mixed Potato Fries, Green Beans, Peaches, Fresh Apple OA B: Pop Tarts OA L: Teriyaki Chicken, Br. Rice, Peas, Apple, Blueberry Crisp</p>	<p>23 BCIG B: Cereal Bar, Yogurt BCIG L: Cowboy Cavatini, Peas, Caesar Salad, MG Breadstick, Applesauce, Orange OA B: Straw. Pancake OA L: Hog Dog, Baked Beans, Radishes, Rom. Salad, Ranch, Applesauce</p>	<p>24 BCIG B: Cheese Omelet, WG Toast BCIG L: Popcorn Chicken, Fresh Veggie Bar, 3 Bean Salsa, *1/2 PB Sand., Peas, Apple OA B: Cinnamon Roll OA L: Pizza Pockets, Mari. Veg. Salad, Rom. Salad, Ranch, Cucumbers, Cauliflower, Peach</p>	<p>25 BCIG B: Assorted Cereal, Cinn. Streusal BCIG L: WG Cheesesticks, Marinated Fresh Veggie Salad, Cooked Carrots, Van. Pudding, Pineapple, Banana OA B: Lemon Poppy Seed Muffin, HB Egg OA L: Fish, Peas, Cole-slaw, Pears, Ani. Crackers</p>	<p>26 BCIG B: Egg Patty, Sausage, WG Toast BCIG L: Pork Patty, WG Bun, Corn Baby Carrots & Celery, Mandarin Oranges, Apple OA B: Breakfast Pizza OA L: Hamburger, WG Bun, Corn, Pickles, Onion, Tomato, Mixed Fruit, Fruit Juice Bar</p>
<p>29 BCIG B: Breakfast Taco, Salsa BCIG L: Chicken Alfredo, Steamed Broccoli, Cooked Carrots, *WG Roll, Blueberry Applesauce, Orange OA B: Cereal Bar, Yogurt OA L: Chicken Sandwich, WGB, Green Beans, Cucumbers, Cauliflower, Tropical Fruit</p>	<p>30 BCIG B: Assorted Cereal, WG Toast BCIG L: Burrito, Lettuce, Tomato, Salsa, Corn Mixed Fruit, Apple OA B: Cereal, Toast OA L: Honey Mustard Wrap, Broccoli, Peas, Yellow Peppers, Cookie</p>			<p><i>Skim & 1% Milk, Juice and Fresh Fruit served daily for breakfast! Skim, White & Chocolate or 1% milk served daily for lunch!</i></p> <p><i>*Available at high school only S.M.B. = School Made Buns</i></p>

GOOGLE APPS FOR EDUCATION

As we look to integrate technology, we are also looking to implement the Google Apps for Education. Which is a suite of products for teachers and students to use free of charge, to do all of the things talked about in the 'Why Implement' section of this article. Chromebooks provide a seamless integration with Google Apps for Education. Students in both districts use Google tools every day already and we hope to expand on their use further. Some of the apps include:

- ePortfolios with Google Sites
- Google Drive
- GMail and Calendar
- Google Maps
- Picasa
- Google Books
- Search
- Google Scholar
- Blogger

TEACHER TRAINING

Teacher training will be an integral part of the success of the new initiative. We will have focused technology integration professional development during some of our early out days next year. We will also incorporate a model of 'Just in time professional development,' by providing elective mini professional development opportunities for staff before and after school on topics generated by staff feedback. In addition, will be utilizing the National Google Certified Instructors from the AEA to help deliver meaningful professional development to all staff members. Our new Director of Innovation and Technology Integration will work to coordinate all of these efforts to try and help create as problem free of an environment as possible.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Providing a safe Internet experience for your children is a top priority. Chromebooks provide students with filtered access to a wealth of Internet resources. The Google Apps for Education Chromebook Management Console allows us to manage Chromebooks remotely. Chromebooks can be filtered regardless of location and help provide a safer Internet experience. We will also be working to create a Digital Citizenship Curriculum that can be infused with our technology use to teach students how to use technology both appropriately and safely.

LEVELS OF SUPPORT

Our levels of support will include a variety of components. We will be working with the Director of Innovation and Technology Integration to set up a framework for support for both students and staff. If needed, we will utilize technology service contracts to handle hardware issues in both districts. A program that has been implemented in several districts going to a 1:1 model is a Technology TA program. The program involves teaming up tech-savvy students with teachers to look for new and innovative ways to incorporate more technology into the classrooms. This group of students would also help teachers problem-solve issues they are having with the implementation of the technology. We are also looking at some schools who have implemented a student version of the 'Geek Squad' to tap into the many skills our students have in helping maintain a strong technology program.

HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

PATRICK MILLER, Principal

SENIOR SERVICE DAY – OABCIG High School will once again host Senior Service Day. This day allows our students to go out and give back to the community. If you have any suggestions or ideas for Senior Service Day please contact the office.

SCHEDULING: (taken from <http://greatcollegeadvice.com/higher-gpa-or-harder-courses/>)

The question that I am often asked is, "which is better: getting a higher GPA or taking a tougher course load?"

The humorous, accurate, but not always helpful response is: "Take the hardest course you can and get an 'A' in it." Here's the scoop: this is not an easy question to answer categorically. In truth, it all depends on the student. Every student should take the most challenging courses he or she can perform well in. Colleges are looking for students who push themselves, who are interested and excited about learning. Honors courses are an indicator of intellectual drive and curiosity. But it does no good to take a slew of AP courses and get a "C" or "D" in each. Further, anyone who takes an AP course should set his or her sights on taking the AP exam. You need to pass the exam—not the teacher's tests—to get the true credit for taking a high-quality AP course.

Parents also ask about how GPAs are then calculated for AP courses. Generally, grades are weighted to give "extra credit" in the GPA for these tougher courses. But that does not mean that a "B" in an honors course is the equivalent of an "A" in a regular college prep course. (The fact is that an "A" is an "A" and indicates exemplary work, while a "B" is a "B" and indicates good work).

So how to answer this? It depends on your child. If he or she is capable of honors-level work, then enroll in those courses.

The worst thing a student can do, however, is to be enrolled in honors courses through sophomore or junior year, and then take easier courses in order to boost a GPA. This always backfires, as admissions officers want to see upward trends in both the GPA and the rigor of the academic program.

DRIVERS EDUCATION:

The first session of drivers education is already underway. There will be another session offered that is scheduled to start sometime in May. The cost of the class is \$350.00. If your student has their permit, and you would like them to take the May session, pick up enrollment forms at either the HS or the MS office. **STUDENTS MUST ALREADY HAVE THEIR PERMIT BEFORE THEY CAN REGISTER FOR THE CLASS.** To register for the class, return the enrollment form from the driving academy, the payment sheet, a copy of the students permit and a deposit of any amount. **MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO OA-BCIG.** The total of the fee must be paid no later than May 1, 2013. Forms are now available and can be picked up at any time.

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 DINNER AND AWARDS

Every May, the OA-BCIG Student Council honors the graduating seniors by hosting a dinner. This year, the 2013 Senior Class Dinner/Awards Ceremony is set for Tuesday, May 14th in the high school cafeteria. Serving will begin at 5:45pm. with Staley's of Charter Oak catering.

Each senior may request up to 3 dinner tickets due to limited space in the cafeteria. The senior's ticket is paid for, however, the other tickets will cost \$10 a piece to purchase. The meal this year will consist of chicken breast, baked potatoes, corn, tossed lettuce salad and an ice cream cup.

Following the dinner, the senior video will be shown at 6:30pm with the awards ceremony immediately following in the gym. The awards program should begin at approximately 6:45pm. Please feel free to invite additional family and friends to the awards ceremony. **Anyone who is planning on presenting an award/scholarship on Senior Night should contact Jo at the HS as soon as possible (364-3371)**

Questions concerning the dinner may be directed to Cindy Wilcke at cwilcke@oabcig.org or 364-3371.

LAST CHANCE TO ORDER YEARBOOKS

Last chance to get your 2012-2013 OABCIG yearbook ordered! They are on sale until April 15, 2013. Yearbooks feature school photos of all students in the district from preschool-seniors, faculty, extracurricular groups/teams, and special events/activities throughout the school year.

Cost is \$50. Order online now by going to www.jostensyearbooks.com or click the link on the school website www.oabcig.org to pay by credit card. To pay by cash/check, send money to the high school. Questions?? Contact Heidi Beck at 364-3371 or hbeck@oabcig.org. Yearbooks will be distributed in late August or early September.



CLASS OF 2013 GRADUATION INFORMATION

CLASS SONG: "We Weren't Crazy" by Josh Gracin

CLASS MOTTO: "We can not discover new oceans unless we have the courage to lose sight of the shore."

CLASS FLOWER: Purple and White Lisianthus

CLASS COLORS: Black, Purple, Silver and White

SENIOR INFORMATION - 2013

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH: The Senior Class Picture will be taken at 3:00. Students should meet in the cafeteria immediately following 8th period. In case of inclement weather, the picture will be taken on Thursday, April 18th at 3:00.

THURSDAY, MAY 2: (Tentative date) Caps and gowns may be picked up in the cafeteria beginning at 3:00pm. Picking them up early allows for changes or alterations if there is an improper fit.

FRIDAY, MAY 3: Senior Service Day

TUESDAY, MAY 7: Seniors will get their sign out sheets in 6th period classes. They will check out of afternoon classes on Tuesday and morning classes on Wednesday. Non-teaching signatures are to be obtained during study halls. Seniors will turn in completed sheets to their 5th hour teacher on Friday. Please note, checking out includes making sure all academic and financial obligations are taken care of.

All senior grades must be completed and turned in to teachers when you check out of that class - no exceptions.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8: Seniors last day of classes. Practice for class night and commencement beginning at 12:40 p.m. - meet in the cafeteria and be ready to go. When practice has been satisfactorily completed, seniors will be dismissed.

TUESDAY, MAY 14: Senior Supper/Video and Senior Awards Night in the H.S. cafeteria. Dinner serving will begin at 5:45 p.m. with the senior video to be shown after dinner. Senior Awards will be presented in the gymnasium following the video. Please bring your cap (tassel on the left) and gown or you will not be allowed to participate in ceremonies. Seniors will march in as practiced. Award recipients are to meet in the back of the gym after the ceremony for newspaper pictures except those receiving the BCIG Foundation Scholarships, Harold and Leone Godbersen Family Foundation, and First State Bank, who are to meet on the risers for a picture immediately following the presentation. **ANYONE WHO IS PLANNING ON PRESENTING AN AWARD/SCHOLARSHIP ON SENIOR NIGHT SHOULD CONTACT JO AT THE HS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (364-3371)**

SUNDAY, MAY 19: Graduation is at 2:00 p.m. Be in cap, gown and honor cords by 1:30. Be lined up and ready to march in by 1:50. Gowns may be turned in after graduation ceremonies in the choir room or they must be brought to the H.S. office by noon on Monday, May 20th. You will receive your diploma when your gown is returned.

Please remember this ceremony is for you, your family and friends - give it the respect it is due.

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. The Skate Palace will be open to the public from 1PM to 4PM to family, friends and the public.

CLASS OF 2010:

Your cum folders will be shredded this summer. If you would like to keep this folder yourself, call the HS before June 1st, 2013 and ask for it to be saved. You can then pick up your folder anytime between June 1 through June 21st.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT BY ANDREA NIELSEN, INSTRUCTOR

The high school Child Development classes have been observing and interacting with students at the elementary. They have been able to witness different ages and stages of development at various grades levels. It has been a fun learning experience for everyone.

Throughout March and April, these same students will be bringing home interactive infant dolls. Each one taking a 24 hour shift nurturing and providing for the doll's needs. This will provide the students a real world experience in parenting.

HIGH SCHOOL LIT CLASSES BY HEATHER SPETMAN, INSTRUCTOR

Comp Lit II classes have been reading the novels To Kill and Mockingbird and Tallgrass. Both novels deal with the themes of racism and prejudice, so students have been discussing and analyzing those difficult topics this quarter. In addition, the students have been blogging about the things they are reading on the class blog Drop Everything and Read page at the address www.spetmanenglish.blogspot.com.

AP English has been preparing for the final test in May by working on vocabulary by "tagging" the room with vocabulary

graffiti and studying the persuasive essay. Fourth quarter will be more intensely focused on practice tests and preparing for the multiple choice portion of the exam, along with practicing the “synthesis” essay.

Comp I has been writing short essays experimenting with various organizational patterns including description, illustration and process analysis.

CONTEST SPEECH SEASON ENDS BY ANN HOLST, COACH

Contest speech season began with District Large Group Contest on January 19th with 8 groups entering and 28 students participating. Six groups advanced to State Large Group: 2 groups of Improvisation, Television News, Readers Theatre, Ensemble Acting, and One-Act Play. For the second year in a row, the one-act play received a nomination to perform at the All-State Speech Festival in Ames. Cast members were Kaylea Killian, Trisha Hayward, Angela Veit, Olivia Freese, and Leah Lierman. There were 138 schools who had students named as Outstanding Performers. There were 190 one-act plays that entered at the district level and OA-BCIG remained as one of the 8 best in the state.

District Individual Events had 25 students participating with 19 students advancing to State Individual Events in 11 categories on March 9th. Four students earned I ratings at State IE in seven events: Trisha Hayward in Storytelling and Acting, Kaylea Killian in Interpretation of Prose and Interpretation of Poetry, Paige Whitney in Interpretation of Prose and Storytelling, and Amy Stangl in Public Address. It was a very successful year and students who participated showed great growth and improvement from their first practices to their final performances. Coaches are Heather Spetman and Ann Holst.

OA-BCIG HOME SCHOOL BY FAITH JOHNSON, INSTRUCTOR

There are currently twenty-five families with fifty-three total students in the OA-BCIG Home School program. Thirty-six of these students are elementary level and sixteen students are in the high school level. A wide variety of curriculums are used. Supervising teachers meet with parents at monthly meetings eight times during the school year.

The home school program plans various field trips and activities. In August a potluck was held to begin the school year. In September the students participated in a country school day at Moorehead Park and on October 19th, a skating party was held. December 4th some students met to make Christmas ornaments for a tree at the Moorehead House. On March 1st there was a talent/science fair night. Over twenty youth participated and shared a variety of skills: piano, guitar, vocal solos, wrestling, poetry recitation, judo, drama, a scuba diving presentation, and a presentation on Egyptian mummies.

Iowa Assessments will be taken in March and April. April 22nd and 23rd an artist from Arkansas is coming to lead two days of art instruction. Supervising teachers for the Home School program are Susan Goodenow and Faith Johnson.

HIGH SCHOOL VOCAL MUSIC BY LINDA JOHNSON, INSTRUCTOR

On Saturday, April 6th, many high school choir members will travel to Sloan to participate in the state solo and small ensemble contest at Westwood High School. We currently have 28 entries and these students have been practicing since late January.

Students will be performing for a state qualified judge who will rate them based on a several criteria set by the Iowa High School Music Association. Students will receive a rating of I, II, III, IV or V. (A “I” rating indicates a superior performance.) All vocal entries must be memorized and the students are rated based on tone quality, intonation, notes/rhythms, musicianship, balance/blend, technique, diction and other performance factors.

HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC BANQUET: Change of date!! Please take note! **Friday, April 26th!** Please watch for further details!

OA-BCIG FFA HOSTS SUB-DISTRICT CONTEST BY ERIC MILLER, ADVISOR

On Monday, February 18th OA-BCIG FFA hosted the Southeast Sub-District contest. We would like to thank the 30 judges that took time out of their day to help with our career development events. Students from East Sac, Manson NW Webster, Newell Fonda, South Central Calhoun, and Pocahontas participated in 9 Career Development Events.

JA STOCK MARKET CHALLENGE BY KURT BROWN, ADVISOR

OA-BCIG senior economics students competed at the Junior Achievement Stock Market Challenge in Des Moines on March 6th. They competed against 23 schools from across Iowa in a stock market simulation. The Junior Achievement Stock Market Challenge was sponsored by the Junior Achievement of Central Iowa. The OA-BCIG Stock Market Challenge teams were sponsored by Ida Grove graduate Brian Waller. In the first picture from left to right: Kailey Childers, Victoria Kowalski, Austin Sadler, Justin Sadler, Doug Hopkins, Brian Waller, Lindsey Conlon, and Mackenzie Teut.

The second picture is of the high school mock trial team. From left to right: Amy Stangl, Erin Fineran, Beth Stangl, Alex Rohlk, Brittanie Albrecht, Thomas Mace, Dalton Clausen and Jessica Gunderson. Both teams were lead by instructor Kurt Brown.



MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSES

TONY SPRADLIN, Principal

WRITE IT! By DEE BOGER

All middle school students have been working on their writing skills this month! The 6th grade students have been writing persuasive paragraphs. The 7th graders just finished the novel Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry in which they perfected their paragraph writing while writing from another point of view. The 8th grade students just finished "Choose Your Own Adventure Books". These books had eight different endings and were done on the computer. The stories and graphics were great! Eighth graders are now just starting to write research papers. The eighth graders also just finished the novel Hot Zone written by Richard Preston. The book a true story that took place in the 1980's based upon an outbreak of the Ebola virus in a monkey house located in a suburb of Washington D.C. This is a book many of you read while in high school.

ELEMENTARY EDICTS & INTERMEDIATE INFORMER

ALAN HENDERSON, Principal

PARENT TEACHER PARTNERSHIP

This is a great time to say thank you for those who have been a part of the parent teacher partnership. Every parent teacher conference night the parents have come through with a great luncheon for teachers. These are some long nights for teachers and they are ready to go again the next day with students. Having this meal provided to them is very much appreciated. They always look forward to the meals that are provided. Again thank you for being willing to support teachers in this way.

RICHARD DAVIS WILL BECOMING TO BCIG APRIL 26TH

Richard teaches students to tell stories through drawing. He likes everyone to have their own drawing and to tell a story with it. He will be meeting with our 2nd Grade through 5th Grade. Richard meets with students across the United States teaching them to play a game called pick and draw. We are excited to have Richard come and work with our students.

What is Pick and Draw? You may find our more about it at: <http://pickanddraw.com/>

- A one-of-a-kind drawing game that teaches you how to make very creative cartoon faces.
- The game uses mainly simple shapes and everyone already knows how to do thereby giving confidence to those who try.
- It is simple and easy to use providing endless hours of fun and learning.
- It can be used by one person or by any group number
- It also opens up creative thinking and using the imagination

BCIG 4TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS BY JANET SNYDER

Students in 4th grade have been focusing on learning about parts of speech, grammar rules, and using 6+1 TRAITS of writing during the year. Writing lessons have included instruction on the key elements: *IDEAS, ORGANIZATION, VOICE, WORD CHOICE, SENTENCE FLUENCY* and *CONVENTIONS*. Students follow the writing process of prewriting, drafting, revisions, editing, and publishing to become better writers.

We have also incorporated CAFÉ and Daily 5 into our reading instruction this year in 4th grade. CAFÉ stands for Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency, and Expand vocabulary strategies. Each of the CAFÉ menus includes reading strategies that we teach in our literature classes using our reading textbook materials, AR books, and literature circle books. Some examples of the CAFÉ comprehension strategies are: reread, cause and effect, make connections, etc. Students practice the strategies daily to become better readers! The Daily 5 provides a practical framework for our daily reading lessons. Students work on 1) read to self, 2) read to someone, 3) word work, 4) work on writing, and 5) listen to reading. Students are often given choices on which of the Daily 5 they would like to work on. Students have enjoyed the feeling of empowerment when they get to make more choices during reading class, and the new instructional methods have not changed our basic curriculum goals or lessons, but they have expanded our teaching options.

TIPS FOR READING AS A FAMILY BY TINA KRAGER AND JULIE COOK, TITLE ONE/READING RECOVERY TEACHERS

Reading as a family when your child is young will instill a sense of literacy that can only benefit future learning for your child in school. Children who are exposed to books are more likely to associate books with positive emotions and warmth. Even infants can relate a positive feeling to books when read to at a very early age. Children are less likely to develop language problems because of being read to at the early stages of literacy development. Children develop a longer attention span when read to at an early age. This increased attention span can influence the child's ability to retain new information in school. Here are some tips to remember when reading to your children at home:

- Snuggle when you read (especially on the cold snowy days!)
- Read and reread favorite stories often
- Talk about the illustrations with your child
- Check out the public library together, there are endless possibilities there!
- Read poems to your child, the rhythm will help your child learn literary patterns
- Keep a few "old favorites" in the car to enjoy on road trips

- Read to your child often and have fun!
For more information to assist your journey of reading with your children, here are a few good websites to check out:
- www.readingrockets.org - This site is loaded with information to help you assist struggling readers, start new routines for reading with your child, and interviews with authors of popular children's books. Along with so much more!
- www.parents.pioneervalleyschools.com - This site includes reading activities for your child, how to help your child read at his/her own level, tips for beginning readers, and how to pick the right books to help your child grow as a reader.

MOUNTAIN LANGUAGE AND JOURNALING BY RANAE REMER

The 5th graders at BCIG have been spending their time in Language Arts sharpening their writing skills, practicing their spelling, and mastering their knowledge of the appropriate usage of the English language.

These students begin every class period by using an interactive bulletin board called "Mountain Language." It is a quick, fun way to review past learning and to get into a writing mode. A typical question on Mountain Language is: glove is to hand as hat is to ____?

The students usually finish their class time by journaling. Sometimes they write about what is happening in their own lives, and other times they write about a fun prompt from the teacher. An example of one of these prompts is, "Write a letter about a girl named Dot, but use no words with letters with dots (i or j)."

Some of the ways the 5th graders have been improving their writing skills and mastering the English language are:

- Making a Prezi glog to display on an iPad during the Wax Museum of American Heros.
- Writing a letter to the editor of the Ida County Courier.
- Blogging on the website "Kidbolg" to express their opinions.
- Playing the game "Sparkle" to practice their spelling.
- Writing a fairy tale using various types of figurative language.

THE CAFÉ MENU BY MRS. EHRIG, MRS. FREESE, AND MRS. MEISNER

In our first grade classrooms at BCIG Elementary we use a Literacy CAFÉ Menu. The CAFÉ menu is posted in each of our rooms. CAFÉ is an acronym that stands for Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency, and Expanding vocabulary. The menu contains strategies good readers use when reading. For example, under Comprehension, one strategy is retelling a story and under Expanding vocabulary we talk about tuning in to interesting words. Students have goals that come from the strategies on the CAFÉ menu that are specific to his/her reading needs. Using the CAFÉ helps students become successful readers.

BCIG KINDERGARTEN LANGUAGE ARTS PROGRAM BY ANNE ZOBEL

Currently in Kindergarten we are exploring guided reading strategies. As we begin this new adventure we are working on some key strategies to get us started in the reading process. These are the reading strategies we are working on to help in decoding a word we do not know:

- I can look at the picture.
- I can read the sentence again.
- I can skip the word and read on.
- I can ask for help.
- I can think about what makes sense.
- I can get my mouth ready for the first sound.
- I can look for chunks I know.

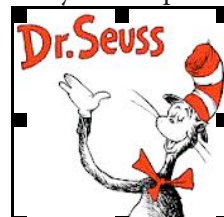
During the week each student has the opportunity to meet for 20 minutes each day in a small group setting with one of the Kindergarten teachers or one of the reading recovery teachers, to observe and practice the strategies. An additional 20 minutes a day is also spent in a small group setting focusing on other language skill building activities. We also incorporate guided writing, which enhances our guided reading. If they can read it they can write it and if they can write it they can read it.

ELEMENTARY EDICTS

NEAL UTESCH, Principal

This past month the students of Odebolt-Arthur elementary celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss. This celebration took place during an afternoon of activities on Friday, March 1st. This day has been designated as the Read Across America celebration and was put together with the help of our reading recovery teacher, Mrs. Neville. The students began their celebration at 1:00 pm that day and each grade level rotated through five different stations before enjoying a large group assembly at 2:40 pm that afternoon. The stations that were put together for the celebration were the following:

- Station 1: Guest Reader (OA-BCIG high school students)
- Station 2: Readers Theater Presentation (5th Grade Students)
- Station 3: Reading Nook (Classroom Teachers)
- Station 4: Dr. Seuss Gets Physical (Mr. Miesner)
- Station 5: Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss (O-A Elementary PTCP)



On March 14th, the 4th and 5th grade students attended the Math Magic Assembly in Battle Creek. The assembly started at 1:00pm and was an interactive presentation on mathematics that was designed to get students excited about math and math education.

On April 11th, the 4th and 5th grade students will have an assembly in the Odebolt-Arthur multi-purpose room on electricity and electrical safety. Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative will be coming for an hands on presentation. This is a free program put on by the company that was brought to us by John Johnston. This assembly will begin at 8:40 am.

Our second grade students will be going on a field trip on April 16th. They will begin their field trip at the Sanford Museum and Planetarium in Cherokee, IA. This museum has exhibits and activities on a variety of subjects including: Archaeology, Art, Astronomy, Geology, History, Natural History, and Paleontology. After they leave the planetarium, the students will travel to Sioux City to see the Abu-Bekr Shrine Circus. The students will cheer in delight as they watch dogs perform tricks, a dancing elephant play the trumpet, and the ringmaster tempt fate as he walks and jumps along the outside of the Wheel of Destiny, a device that spins him high into the air above the crowd.

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)

Students in the Odebolt-Arthur school district will be given an opportunity to attend our Preschool Round Up during the month of May. This event will take place on May 1st from 9:00-10:00 am.

The Odebolt-Arthur 3rd – 5th grade spring concert is on April 9th in the Odebolt gym and will begin at 7:00 pm. Please come out and watch as our students put on a show for you. It is always an enjoyable show.

Student safety and bus evacuation drills will take place during the week of April 15th – April 18th. Each grade level will take part in the evacuation drill and will walk through the appropriate way to exit a bus in the event of an emergency.

TAG sharing night will take place on Monday, April 29th. It will begin at 6:30pm and will be in the Odebolt-Arthur school. This night is dedicated to students in the Talented and Gifted program and gives these students an opportunity to showcase their talents and to show off their hard work that they have accomplished during the school year in their class.

LANGUAGE ARTS UPDATE:

4th graders at OA have been using the Constructing Meaning strategies from Nancy N. Boyles's book to help them understand what they have read. There are six strategies to use before, during, and after reading.

The first strategy is CONNECTING. Children need to know that good readers make a lot of different mental connections as they are reading; they connect what they are reading to their background knowledge, to their own life, to another text, and to the larger world. If we try really hard to think of ways a story connects to our lives, we are more likely to stick with the story. Making connections with the text will help us to keep reading it.

The second strategy is PICTURING. When a reader can picture the words on the page as if they were a movie playing, or as if they were actually in the story themselves, they can more easily remember the words, the message, and replay them again and again.

The third strategy is WONDERING. Wondering keeps us reading. If we can't wait to find out what happens on the next page, the next chapter, or by the end of the book, we're going to stick with that book until our questions are answered.

The fourth strategy is GUESSING or PREDICTING. After we have wondered about something we read, we are likely to begin to think about the possible outcomes. We naturally want to read further to see if our guess was right.

The fifth strategy is NOTICING. We want kids to realize that noticing means keying-in to important verbal clues: words, sentences, and paragraphs that offer evidence of the text's meaning.

The sixth strategy is FIGURING OUT. This strategy is critical to reading. Figuring out is like filling in the blanks. When you can really figure out the meaning of a text, you have used the entire reading strategies well.

MR. MIESNER'S MEMO

The Jump Rope For Heart event was a success at OA Elementary!!! The students raised \$6,360.22! The students more than doubled their school goal. The money raised will help to fund research and save lives through the American Heart Association. Several incentives were earned during this fundraiser. OA Elementary had 76 students earn \$40 or more which got them a JRFH event t-shirt. US Games will be donating \$800 in FREE physical education equipment to the OA elementary building. The best incentive of all, according to the students, is that both Mr. Utesch and myself had the pleasure of kissing a PIG!!! This was quite an experience to say the least. I thank all of the students, community and teachers that made this a successful event.

ODEBOLT-ARTHUR KINDERGARTEN LANGUAGE ARTS by KARA SMITH AND ALCYIA SPORRER

On March 1st the kindergarteners at O-A Elementary had the opportunity to participate in Read Across America in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday. They were excited to listen to high school students read to them, see the 5th graders present a reader's theatre on The Sneetches by Dr. Seuss, and have some time to partner up and read! They even participated in physical education rotations that were each based upon a Dr. Seuss book. Parents also volunteered to lead a center in which the students had a snack and a craft.

This was a fun-filled day that promoted reading at our school!

Every Friday the kindergarten classes team up with the fourth grade classes to participate in Reading Buddies. Each kindergartener is paired with a fourth grader and spends twenty minutes engaging in read aloud activities and conversation. It has been beneficial for both grades, and lasting relationships between the students have formed. The fourth graders have been impressed with how much the kindergarteners have learned this year! They can even read to them now!

This month we have continued our guided reading groups. In these small groups we focus upon reading and writing strategies unique to each level of student. We hope to focus upon incorporating more writing strategies into each day as the students become more independent and confident in their abilities.

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:

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)

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. On Feb. 28th, March 1st, and March 2nd a group of teachers and administrators attended the Grapple Institute in East Sac County. The focus of this professional development opportunity was to help members of our district leadership team:

- Gain a better understand, insights, and practice in effectively leading PLC's
- Help them learn how to identify, address, and mitigate obstacles that are common including dealing with challenging interpersonal dynamics.
- Practice using and facilitating protocols for looking at teacher and student work, learning text-based discussions, problem solving issues and dilemmas, setting useful group norms, giving and receiving warm and cool feedback, and unpacking standards.
- Gain a clear sense of what they need to do next in their schools to launch PLC's.

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM:

The district leadership team will meet on March 21st and will continue their book study on Professional Learning Communities. Staff members who attended the Grapple Institute in East Sac County will lead the discussion and presentation during our next meeting. A calendar of future meetings for our DLT is as follows: April 11th, April 24th, and May 9th. During these meetings we will continue to review the concepts of PLC's and develop a calendar for next years professional development activities.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR & IMPORTANT DATES:

March 8	½ Day PD (8am-12pm)	ICAT (K-12) (Led by Administrators & District Leadership Teams)
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

Activity Calendar for April 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>No School - Spring Break</p>	<p>2 *4:30pm WVC Golf G @ Ida Grove B @ Mapleton</p> <p>*4:30pm Boys Track @ Mapleton</p> <p>*5:00pm Girls Track @ LeMars</p>	<p>3 </p>	<p>4 4:30pm Boys Track @ Tomahawk Relays @ Cherokee</p>	<p>5 4:30pm Girls Track @ Tomahawk Relays @ Cherokee</p>	<p>6 HS Music Solo/Small Ensemble Contests</p> 	
<p>7</p>	<p>8 4:30pm WVC Golf G @ Holstein B @ C'ville</p> <p>MS Mid Term Week</p> <p>School Board Mtg.</p>	<p>9 4:00pm Golf @ Onawa (MVAO & WM)</p> <p>4:30pm Girls Track @ Onawa</p> <p>4:30pm Boys Track @ Harlan</p> <p>7:00pm OA 3rd-5th Spring Concert @ Odebolt</p>	<p>10 1:00 Dismissal Professional Development</p> <p>6:00pm Athletic Booster Meeting</p>	<p>11 7:00pm BCIG Elem. 3rd-4th Concert @ Battle Creek</p>	<p>12 4:00 pm Golf vs RV / Cherokee G @ Cherokee B @ Holstein</p> <p>4:30pm Sioux City Relays (Freshmen)</p>	<p>13 ACT Testing Date</p> <p>8:30am Boys Golf @ IKM-Manning Tournament</p> <p>9:00 am Sioux City Relays</p> <p>7:00 pm Spring Play @ Odebolt</p>
<p>14 </p>	<p>15 4:00 pm MS Track @ Kingsley</p> <p>4:30pm WVC Golf G @ Kingsley B @ Merville</p>	<p>16 4:00 pm Golf vs Boyer Valley @ Dunlap</p> <p>4:30 pm OA-BCIG Boys Falcon Relays @ Ida Grove</p>	<p>17 </p>	<p>18 4:30 pm OA-BCIG Falcon Co-ed Relays @ Ida Grove</p>	<p>19 2:00 pm BCIG 4th Grade Hobby Show @ Battle Creek</p> <p>4:00 pm MS Track @ Early</p>	<p>20 2:30 - 4:30pm Prom Open House</p> <p>4:50 - 6:30pm Prom Grand March</p> <p>7:00pm Prom</p>
<p>21</p>	<p>22 FFA State Leadership Conference @ Ames</p> <p>4:00pm MS Track @ Sac City</p> <p>4:00pm Golf G @ C'ville B @ Sloan</p>	<p>23 FFA @ Ames *NWCDA Honor Choir</p> <p>4:00pm Girls Golf @ IG</p> <p>4:00pm OABCIG Girls Relays</p>	<p>24 </p>	<p>25 4:00pm OABCIG MS Track Relays</p> <p>4:30pm Track @ MVAO Relays</p> <p>4:30pm WVC Golf makeup day</p> <p>6:30pm Preschool & AK Concert</p>	<p>26 Drake Relays @ DesMoines</p> <p>6:00pm HS Music Banquet</p>	<p>27 Drake Relays</p> <p>MS Band Contest @ Anthon</p> <p>9:00am OABCIG Golf Invite G @ Ida Grove B @ Odebolt</p>
<p>28 </p>	<p>29 HS Baseball Practice Begins</p> <p>3:30pm WVC Co-ed Track @ Lawton</p> <p>4:30pm WVC Golf G @ Sloan B @ Kingsley</p> <p>6:30pm TAG Sharing Night</p>	<p>30 WVC Track Rain Date</p> <p>7:00pm MS Spring Concert</p>				

Odebolt-Arthur Community School District
600 S. Maple Street
Odebolt, IA 51468

Battle Creek-Ida Grove Community School District
900 John Montgomery Drive
Ida Grove, IA 51445

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

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 have received 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

NOW AVAILABLE: PAY LUNCH BALANCES ONLINE 24/7!

Battle Creek-Ida Grove and Odebolt Arthur School Districts have teamed with PaySchools to allow patrons to put money in student lunch accounts online through the district website. Payments can be made with debit cards, credit cards and/or E-checks. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week-no need to write checks and send to school!

It's simple... access the school website at <http://www.oabcig.org>. Use the parent access for JMC for the district your student(s) may be in. Links are in the lower right-hand corner of the web page. If you need to set up an account (or have lost your login information), please contact the office of the school your student attends.

Once you have accessed your students' lunch balance information, click on the link "Make Online Deposit Family Account" located at the top of the page. This will direct you to the PaySchools log in page. First time users will need to set up an account with PaySchools by entering email address and password. (You will use this information any-time you access PaySchools and will be able to use the same log in information for either district and any/all of your students.) For security reasons, PaySchools does not retain credit card information.

If you have any questions or encounter problems using the system, please contact the central office of either district. BCIG 712-364-2255 or OA 712-668-2289.

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.

For Up-To-Date Info, Please Visit: <http://www.oabcig.org>

April 2013

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