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Dr. Nick Ouellette,  
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Superintendent

Mr. Patrick Miller,  
pmiller@oabcig.org  
OABCIG HS Principal

Mr. Tony Spradlin,  
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OABCIG MS Principal

Mr. Alan Henderson,  
ahenderson@oabcig.org  
BCIG Elementary Principal

Mr. Neal Utesch,  
nutesch@oabcig.org  
OA Elementary Principal

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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.*

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***SUPERINTENDENT'S SCOOP***  
***DR. NICK OUELLETTE, Superintendent***

**REMINDER**

**Revenue Purpose Statement for both  
Odebolt-Arthur Community School District &  
Battle Creek-Ida Grove Community School District**

**Statement Vote February 5th, 2013  
Vote Defines School Improvement Sales Tax Use**

When you go to the polls to vote in February, there will be two items on the ballot for your consideration in Battle Creek-Ida Grove and one item on the ballot for Odebolt-Arthur. The board of education from both districts will submit for your approval their plans to use funds from the newly authorized statewide school infrastructure one-cent sales tax. In addition, there is a school board seat up for election in BCIG. The seat was originally held by Dr. Luft and has been filled by appointment with Jill Godbersen since September.

Since the state tax replaces the old, local one-cent sales tax, the school districts must re-state how we intend to use the funds, and the community must vote on that "revenue purpose statement." Here are some things to consider:

- The statewide sales tax was signed into law by the governor in April, 2008.
- This is not a vote to determine whether the tax will go into effect.
- The tax will be charged by the state regardless of the outcome of this vote.
- The school district cannot use the funds to build or renovate buildings without passing a purpose statement.
- This is a vote to allow the school board to access the funds and use them as they propose in their purpose statement – and only as proposed.
- Passage of this statement would make it possible to continue to maintain the facilities in each respective district.
- Failure to pass a purpose statement for the sales tax will delay planned facility projects for the district.
- The district has been a responsible steward of the local-option sales tax funds, using the monies numerous district-wide maintenance projects.

With the sales tax funds, the district could address the facility issues that are currently critical, and it may be able to work toward other projects such as improving and expanding activity facilities or upgrading support services facilities and buildings.

*Superintendent's Scoop continued on page 3*


# Breakfast & Lunch Menus for February 2013


**Monday                      Tuesday                      Wednesday                      Thursday                      Friday**

<p><i>Skim &amp; 1% Milk, Juice and Fresh Fruit served daily for breakfast! Skim, White &amp; Chocolate or 1% milk served daily for lunch!</i> *Available at high school only S.M.B = School Made Buns</p>				<p>1 <b>BCIG B:</b> Breakfast Taco, Salsa <b>BCIG L:</b> Teriyaki Chicken, Seasoned Rice, Side Salad, Mixed Vegetables, *Uncrustables, Pears, Apple <b>OA B:</b> Egg Omelet/Toast <b>OA L:</b> Hot Dog WG Bun, Baked Beans, Applesauce, Romaine/Ranch/Radish</p>
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<p>4 <b>BCIG B:</b> WG Waffle, Sausage Links <b>BCIG L:</b> WG Mini Corn Dogs, Marinated Fresh Veggie Salad, Baked Beans, Applesauce, Orange <b>OA B:</b> Straw/Splash Pancakes <b>OA L:</b> Grilled Chicken/WG Bun, Marinated Veg Salad, Apple, Peas, Brocc, Carrots, Red Pepper Strip</p>	<p>5 <b>BCIG B:</b> Assorted Cereal, WG Toast <b>BCIG L:</b> Scalloped Potatoes/Ham, Green Beans, *Baby Carrots, Butter Sandwich, Apricots, Apple <b>OA B:</b> Breakfast Pizza <b>OA L:</b> Mr. Rib/WG bun, Green Beans, Cucumbers, Romaine, Ranch, Mandarin Oranges</p>	<p>6 <b>BCIG B:</b> Cheese Omelet, WG Toast <b>BCIG L:</b> WG Chicken Strips, Fresh Vegetable Bar, Peas, *PB Sandwich, Peaches, Fresh Banana <b>OA B:</b> Sausage Cheese Bagel <b>OA L:</b> Roast Beef Sandwich, Buttered Sweet Potato, Marinated Bean Salad, Peaches, Ice Cream</p>	<p>7 <b>BCIG B:</b> Assorted Cereal, Cinnamon Bun <b>BCIG L:</b> Pepperoni Pizza, Corn, Cucumber Slices, Mandarin Oranges, Apple <b>OA B:</b> Poptarts, Hard-Boiled Egg <b>OA L:</b> Teriyaki Chicken, Brown Rice, Cooked Carrots/Caulif, Clementines, Apple Crisp</p>	<p>8 <b>BCIG B:</b> Egg Patty, Bacon round, Toast <b>BCIG L:</b> Chicken&amp;Noodles, Steamed Broccoli, Cooked Carrots, Dinner Roll, Mixed Fruits, Clementine <b>OA B:</b> Breakfast Wrap <b>OA L:</b> Sausage Pancake on Stick, Banana Muffin, Apple Juice, Pears</p>
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<p>11 <b>BCIG B:</b> Bacon Scramble Breakfast Pizza <b>BCIG L:</b> BBQ Chicken Breast, WG Bun, Mixed Potato Fries, Green Beans, Pineapple, Fresh Apple <b>OA B:</b> Maple Waffles <b>OA L:</b> Goulash, Green Beans, Baby Carrots, Romaine Salad/Ranch, Apricots</p>	<p>12 <b>BCIG B:</b> Oatmeal to Go, Yogurt <b>BCIG L:</b> WG Burrito, Lettuce, Tomato, Salsa, Black Bean Salad, Applesauce cups, Fresh Clementine <b>OA B:</b> WG Cereal Bar/Yogurt <b>OA L:</b> Chicken Quesadilla, Brown Rice, Broccoli/Red Peppers, Mixed Fruit</p>	<p>13 <b>BCIG B:</b> Cheese Omelet, WG Toast <b>BCIG L:</b> Tuna Alfredo, Fresh Vegetable Bar, Mixed Vegetables, *Uncrustables, Pears, Apple <b>OA B:</b> Cinnamon Roll <b>OA L:</b> Grilled Cheese, Black Bean Salad, Cauliflower, Banana</p>	<p>14 <b>BCIG B:</b> Assorted Cereal, Ultimate Breakfast Round <b>BCIG L:</b> WG Chicken Nuggets, Marinated Fresh Veggie Salad, Corn, Angel Food w Straw <b>OA B:</b> Straw/Cr. Cheese Strudel <b>OA L:</b> Corn Dog, Baked Chips/Broccoli Slaw, Red Fruit Juice Bar, Grapes</p>	<p>15 <b>BCIG B:</b> Breakfast Wrap, Salsa <b>BCIG L:</b> WG Cheesesticks w/ Marinara, Spinach Salad w/ Tomatoes, Peas, *PB Sandwich, Peaches, Fresh Apple <b>OA B:</b> Egg Omelet/Toast <b>OA L:</b> Cheese Pizza, Baby Carrots/Cucumbers, Peaches, Rice Krispy Bars</p>
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<p>18 No School President's Day </p>	<p>19 <b>BCIG B:</b> Assorted Cereal <b>BCIG L:</b> Hamburger/WG bun, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Mixed Fruit, Orange <b>OA B:</b> Donut/Long John <b>OA L:</b> BBQ Pork Sandwich, Cucumbers, Green Beans, Red pepper Strips, Peaches</p>	<p>20 <b>BCIG B:</b> Egg Patty, Sausage, WG Toast <b>BCIG L:</b> WG Popcorn Chicken, Fresh Vegetable Bar, Gr. Beans, PB Sand. Mand. Oranges, Banana <b>OA B:</b> Nutri Grain Bar, Yogurt <b>OA L:</b> Hamburger WG Bun, Sweet Potato, Corn, Tomato, Onion, Pear</p>	<p>21 <b>BCIG B:</b> Assorted Cereal, Cinn. Streusal Coffeecake <b>BCIG L:</b> Mandarin Orange Chicken, Brown Rice, Cooked Carrots, Broc-Cauli Salad, Applesauce, Fresh Pears, <b>OA B:</b> Breakfast Pizza <b>OA L:</b> WG Chicken Nuggets, S.M.B. Peas, Broccoli, 1/2 Orange</p>	<p>22 <b>BCIG B:</b> Cheese Omelet, WG Toast <b>BCIG L:</b> WG Fish Patty/WG Bun, Potato Wedges, Cole Slaw, Pineapple, Fresh Apple <b>OA B:</b> Breakfast Wrap <b>OA L:</b> Cheese Pizza Sticks, Marina Sauce, Baby Carrots, Ranch, Apple, Strawberry Salad</p>
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<p>25 <b>BCIG B:</b> WG Biscuit w/ Gravy, Egg Patty <b>BCIG L:</b> WG Chicken Patty/WG Bun, Marinated Fresh Veggie Salad, Corn, Pears, Fresh Clementine <b>OA B:</b> Blueberry Waffle <b>OA L:</b> Pork Patty, WG Bun, Cooked Carrots, Clementines</p>	<p>26 <b>BCIG B:</b> WG Bagel w/ Cream Cheese, Yogurt <b>BCIG L:</b> Spaghetti, Tossed Romaine Lettuce Salad, Garlic Bread, Peaches, Fresh Apple <b>OA B:</b> Saus/Cheese Bagel <b>OA L:</b> Pizza Pockets, Marinated Veggie Salad, Romaine/Ranch, Peaches, Cherries</p>	<p>27 <b>BCIG B:</b> Egg Patty, Ham Slice, WG Toast <b>BCIG L:</b> Chicken Tetrazzini, Fresh Vegetable Bar, Kidney Beans, *Bread Slice, Blueberry Applesauce Cup, Fresh Pear <b>OA B:</b> Cinnamon Roll <b>OA L:</b> Chicken Sandwich, WG Bun, Gr. Beans, Cucumbers, Cauli, Banana</p>	<p>28 <b>BCIG B:</b> Assorted Cereal, Blueberry Muffin <b>BCIG L:</b> Taco-In-A-Bag, Shredded Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Salsa, WG Doritos, Black Bean Salad, Apricots, *PB Sandwich Fresh Banana <b>OA B:</b> WG Cereal Bar, Hard Boiled Egg <b>OA L:</b> Maidrites/WG Bun, Potato Wedges, Garbanzo Bean Salad, Apricots, Orange</p>	
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*SUPERINTENDENT'S SCOOP continue from page 1*

A SUMMARY OF THE ACTUAL "REVENUE PURPOSE STATEMENT," WHICH WILL READ AS FOLLOWS:

*Money received by the 'Odebolt-Arthur School District' or 'Battle Creek-Ida Grove School District' (depending on the voting location) from the State of Iowa Secure an Advanced Vision for Education Fund may be spent for any one of more of the following purposes:*

TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

To provide funds to build and furnish a new school building or buildings; to build and furnish addition(s) to school buildings in the district; to remodel, repair, expand, and improve the school buildings in the district; to purchase and improve grounds; for demolition work; to furnish and equip district facilities.

To provide funds for the purchase, lease or lease-purchase of buildings or equipment (including transportation, technology and recreation equipment) as authorized by law, to implement energy conservation measures, sharing or rental of facilities, procuring or acquisition of libraries, or opening roads to schoolhouses or buildings.

To provide funds for emergency repairs to respond to natural disasters, such as fire, wind damage, flood; unanticipated mechanical, plumbing, structural, roof, electrical system failures; environmental remediation; or to respond to changes in demographics that require construction of additions or improvements to school buildings or new school buildings.

To provide funds to establish and maintain public recreation places and playgrounds; provide for supervision and instruction for recreational activities; or for community education purposes; and other authorized expenditures and purposes as now or hereafter permitted by law and designated by the 'Odebolt-Arthur School District' or 'Battle Creek-Ida Grove School District' (depending on the voting location).

To provide funds for the payment of principal and interest or retirement of general obligation bonds issued for school infrastructure purposes, energy improvement loans, loan agreements authorized by Iowa Code section 297.36, sales, service and use tax revenue bonds issued under Iowa Code section 423E.5.

If this proposition should fail to be approved by the voters, such failure shall not be construed to terminate or restrict authority previously granted by the voters to expend receipts from the Secure an Advanced Vision for Education Fund.

If approved, this Revenue Purpose Statement shall remain in effect until replaced or amended by the 'Odebolt-Arthur School District' or 'Battle Creek-Ida Grove School District' (depending on the voting location).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*Q: The wording of the purpose statement seems broad. Why not tighten it down and list specific projects you intend to use the money for?*

*A: The district will be able to use the sales tax for the next 16 years. No one can accurately predict what changes may occur in either district over that time. Who can say what issues the boards of education may face? The statement language gives future boards flexibility to adjust plans to the community's changing needs. If we specify individual projects, the board would then be bound to execute those projects - even if future events dictate they no longer are the right projects for the communities.*

*Q: Even with the sales tax, won't property taxes still go up if you need a bond issue in the future?*

*A: Not necessarily. The district can borrow against the incoming sales tax funds and use that money to pay off the debt. Essentially, this would replace the property tax component of some future bond issues with the sales tax. This gives the community the best possible opportunity for tax relief. Please note, however, that the sales tax may not meet every need.*

*Q: Have we considered how other school districts are wording their purpose statements?*

*A: Yes. In fact, this purpose statement is based on an example recommended by our Attorney. They counsel other districts as well. They believe this statement, while providing good direction, allows the district latitude to meet the needs of a changing community.*

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**The OABCIG Dollars for Scholars Foundation is seeking volunteers to serve on the Foundations Board of Directors. We will be seeking one individual from the Odebolt-Arthur communities and one individual from the Battle-Creek Ida Grove communities. Interested individuals will need to attend monthly meetings of the foundation and support fundraising functions. Anyone with advanced technology and website skills would be helpful. If interested, please contact an OABCIG Dollars for Scholars Foundation member.**

## **HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS**

**PATRICK MILLER, Principal**

### **SENIORS**

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](mailto: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.

## 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:

### ***TALENT SHOW:***

- Share your talent. . .music, dance, etc.
- Take tickets
- Serve juice and cookies
- Set up and take down tables and chairs

### ***SERVICE AUCTION:***

Donate as an individual or as a group. . . student council, bowling team, FFA, basketball team, cheerleaders, etc.

- Yard work
- Car detailing
- Baked items
- Any service that you would like to donate!

### ***SIGN UP BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8 – SIGN UP SHEETS ARE IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY.***

If you have questions or would like more information, contact Becky Ricklefs at 364-2102. Also, if adults would like to share their talent, please contact Becky.

### ***FFA ACTIVITIES: Eric Miller, advisor***

On December 7th, 2012, the OA-BCIG horticulture class went to Grandpa’s Christmas Tree Farm in Ida Grove to help the BCIG Kindergarten Class. The high school kids taught the elementary kids about the different kinds of trees, their texture, what their living environment was, and finally how to cut down the trees. The kindergartners also were sent on a mission to find the “red ribbon”. After all the kids found the red ribbon, they cut the tree down and got to see how to get the dead needles off and how to wrap the trees. The high school students also learned about the trees. This was a very good experience for all the kids. We would like to thank the Warnke family for the use of their tree farm, and the BCIG kindergarten kids for letting the horticulture class help. Senior Dalton Leinbaugh said, “I had fun learning about the trees and being able to share that knowledge with the kindergartners.”

On Friday, December 7th, 2012, the OABCIG FFA held our annual FFA soup supper. Members served chili, chicken noodle, and cheesy, potato soup along with crackers, vegetables, bars, and lemonade. The supper brought in a profit of \$1,000. This year we will be using the money to start a FFA scholarship for the seniors. We would like to thank Vicki Linman for helping out in the kitchen. We would also like to thank the following families for donating soup: Leinbaugh’s, Linman’s, Peter’s, Riessen’s, Rosemeyer’s, and Cowlham’s. Without your support we would not have been able to have such a successful soup supper. Thank you to the community who came out and enjoyed some soup.

The OA-BCIG FFA had our annual fruit sales fundraiser in late October through early November. This year FFA members sold \$24,000 dollars worth of fruit, meat and cheese, popcorn and pickled herring. The fruit was delivered on Tuesday, December, 10th. FFA members spent the day sorting out the best fruit and preparing to deliver the product. Each member sold an average of \$350 making this fruit sale very successful. Every member that sold over \$400 received a free FFA Columbia jacket. The money helps to fund our activities that the FFA participates in throughout the year. Top sellers were Wesley Swanger-1st, Trevor Schnuckel-2nd, Tanner Hemer-3rd, Kirstin Weber-4th, and Tristen Goettsch-5th. Thanks to all the supporters of the OA-BCIG FFA who bought fruit or other products this year.

Follow us on twitter at <http://twitter.com/OABCIGFFA>



## **HELP WANTED!**

Do you play the piano? Do you know someone else who plays the piano? We are looking (and hoping) there are some talented keyboard players out there who would like to help us out and share their talents with the students at OABCIG! We need accompanists for concerts and solo/small ensemble contest!!

If you are able to help at the middle school instrumental contest/recital, please contact Neil Anders at [nanders@oabcig.org](mailto:nanders@oabcig.org)

If you are able to assist with the high school vocal contest entries, contact Linda Johnson at [lijohnson@oabcig.org](mailto:lijohnson@oabcig.org) (The high school contest is Saturday, April 6th and will be held at Westwood Schools in Sloan.)

It would really be disappointing if we have to start limiting participation in these events due to a shortage of accompanists willing to share their talents with our young people.

## **POPS CONCERT**

The high school show choir and concert choir will be presenting a Pops Concert, on Thursday, February 21, 2013! Please join us for an evening of FUN!

## **HS CHOIR UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Western Valley Honor Choir Feb. 25 @ Lawton-Bronson

Las Vegas Night March 21!!

Solo/Small Ensemble Contest, April 6 @ Westwood (Sloan)

Fine Arts Concert, May 2

Large Group State Contest, May 4 @ Sioux City



## **MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSES** TONY SPRADLIN, Principal

Ten pieces of artwork were submitted for the Youth Art month show to be held in Des Moines during the month of March. Those having artwork entered were by: Olivia Schroeder, Kate Gaseitwiwe, Kiersten Schultz, Cade Neville, Quinci Spradlin, Leighton Barnum, Kelsey Dausel, Kirsten Dausel, Dakota Powell, and Elizabeth Williams.

Following the judging by two Grandview University art professors, accepted into the show were pieces by: Olivia Schroeder, Kate Gaseitwiwe, Leighton Barnum, and Dakota Powell.

The OA-BCIG Middle School is teaming up with Buena Vista University in an effort together data in the field of mathematics. BVU student researcher Stephanie Anders will work with OA-BCIG's 7th and 8th graders, administering a short mathematics test followed by an interest inventory questionnaire. Individual scores will remain confidential while adding to a growing body of knowledge concerning the impact of stereotypes in schools. Anders will present the data in Minneapolis at the prestigious Midwestern Psychological Association conference in May.

## **HARVEST ARTWORK**

The Northwest AEA will be making plans to publish the 2013 35th Edition of Harvest and will be including artworks from OA-BCIG Artists. During the month of January, artworks will be selected for inclusion in the 2013 Harvest. Entering exemplary artworks pictured here are: Kirsten Dausel 6th "Great Piece of Turf," Luke Johnson 7th "Ceramic Cat," Caroline Miller 8th "Charcoal Germs," and Kelsie Cedeno 8th "Chair in a Room." We anticipate these students to become "published" artists.

## **MISS ALFREDSON'S READING CLASSES:**

January was all about nonfiction for the 6th grade classes. Students discussed the text features of nonfiction so they can more easily navigate through their textbooks, in school, and other nonfiction readings outside of school. I saw a lot of revelations when we discussed the Table of Contents and Index. The students were amazed to learn that nonfiction texts can be a lot easier to read when they are aware of how to read them!

Next, we will begin a second round of Literature Circles. The students will be put into groups and each group will read a different book from my collection that will be discussed weekly within that group. We will also incorporate technology by using a

blogging website as the place for each group to “discuss” their book electronically with each other.

January was also a lot of nonfiction practice for 8th grade classes. As the year has progressed, these students have been asked to read more challenging texts and discuss deeper questions to prepare for high school literature classes.

Next, we will be reading the nonfiction selection, “The Hot Zone” by Richard Preston. This is a dramatic true story about a virus that swept Washington D.C. in the 1980’s. I am excited to experience such a riveting true story with these students. I hope the “true story” aspect gives these young readers the motivation to dive into a challenging book with excitement. and develop great class discussions along the way.

## **ELEMENTARY EDICTS & INTERMEDIATE INFORMER**

**ALAN HENDERSON, Principal**

### *IOWA ASSESSMENTS*

This is a reminder that we are giving our Iowa Assessments to grades 2-5 the week of February 4th- 8th. This is a good time to make sure students have a regular routine. As a parent, make sure they get a good night sleep and they are eating well. We will also be having snacks at school during this time as well. Have a discussion about how the tests can be hard at times with your child. Tell them not to get discouraged, but try their best. No one can ever ask anyone to do more than their best. Thanks for all of your support as we go through this testing week.

We did move the tests up earlier this year than last. We did this to be at the end of a norming period. Basically this means that we have had the opportunity to teach the students the most that we can before the scores would be graded on a more difficult level. It really allows the students to show the most of what they know. We also did this so we have a better chance of getting our results back sooner, and then share the results with you, the parent.

### *ADDITION NEWS*

The addition is really going well. The weather has cooperated extremely well for the contractors to do their work. Floors are being poured and brick is being placed on the outside of the building. Some unique items are being added to the library and will make it a place to remember. The construction is currently on schedule and the addition will be completed as projected.

### *SYMPHONIC EXPERIENCE*

The 4th grade students get the opportunity to see the Orpheum Theatre. Students will get to go and listen to the Sioux City Symphony. This is not music you would probably find on most students IPod’s, but it is a great experience to see a magnificent building and to hear some inspiring music students may not ever get exposed to outside of this experience. I am thankful that the Symphony puts this on for area schools to be apart of.

### *TITLE I (HIGHLY QUALIFIED)*

Teacher’s in both BCIG and Odebolt District are highly qualified. All teachers have an endorsement in reading and have been trained in reading recovery. If for some reason we would have to have a teacher who did not meet those requirements, you would receive a written letter letting you know they are serving your child. Our associates also meet the qualifications the state of Iowa requires to be an associate in our building.

### *OPPORTUNITIES FOR HOMELESS WITHIN OUR DISTRICT*

Homeless Coordinator: Mr. Alan Henderson 712-364-2360

### *YOU CAN ALSO CALL:*

Julie Staley: Elem. Guidance 712-364-2360

Joleen Brady: Middle School Guidance 712-668-2289

Mary Schroeder: High School Guidance 712-364-3371

### *WAYS WE CAN HELP:*

- Provide extra help in areas of reading and math
- Find supplies you need
- Waive fees for breakfast and lunch
- Find supports for housing, clothes, glasses (through a list of local supports)
- Help with transportation

### *ELEMENTARY AND INTERMEDIATE TAG*

The 4th and 5th grade TAG students have been busy so far this year working on a variety of self-directed learning projects. Fourth grade has spent time creating their own board games. This project included the entire process of writing complete directions for the game, creating game pieces and an eye catching game board, as well as doing research for information incorporated into their game. The highlight of this project was DEFINITELY when we took turns playing each of the games.

Fifth grade TAG has spent time learning how to put together Power Point presentations. They have researched topics to coordinate with their social studies curriculum and will be presenting their Power Points in their 5th grade social studies classroom. A particular highlight of this process has been learning how to insert videos, music clips, photos, etc. into their presentations.

Both sections are now working on publishing their own online books. This is an exciting process to learn about and will culminate with each child receiving a professionally printed paperback copy of the book they have authored.

## *PRESCHOOL NEWS*

So far this year, preschool has been very busy with so many activities and fun lessons! Every day is spent doing hands-on activities to help little minds and bodies grow and develop. From the time we get to school and sign in, until we go home and say goodbye to each other, we are staying active and busy. The students are all proud of their work so far this school year and are excited to get to school every day. Our days are full of art projects, music and dancing, constructing (blocks, legos, play-dough, etc.), pretending, and getting messy with science projects!

We have many activities and trips planned throughout the year in our program. We have already gotten to visit a farm and go to Santa's Castle. We have celebrated holidays and thrown parties. One of our favorites was The Polar Express Day, where we got to come in our pajamas! We read the story, watch some of the movie, enjoy hot chocolate, did some holiday activities, and headed home with our very own Christmas bell!

Coming up in preschool is our 100th day of school celebration which we will celebrate on January 24th. On this day, we make a special snack and do many activities related to the 100th day of school and the number 100. We also will have a trip to the Nature Center in Denison this spring, a fishing trip at Cobb Park, and our Preschool Program.

## **ELEMENTARY EDICTS**

**NEAL UTESCH, Principal**

### *JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM*

Odebolt-Arthur Elementary students will take part in the Junior Achievement Education Program again this school year. This program offers connections with community business leaders and entrepreneurs and has local business owners and workers come in during the spring semester to teach lessons to the students. These volunteers took part in a training session on December 5th at the Odebolt-Arthur Elementary school at 11:00 am or 12:00 pm, and have met their classroom teacher as well as their students that they will be working with during the winter and spring months. This program will kick off this month and will continue throughout the spring season. The following (business men) and women have given up their time to help with this valuable program and we thank them for their help: Kip Gebel, Jim Mickelson, Wendy Ullrich, Andrew Mortensen, Vicki Beckmann, Wendy Larson, Denise Van Dusen, Jeff Buehler, Paul Newman, and Brad Lundell. We look forward to seeing them in the classrooms and the school building!

### *IOWA ASSESSMENT TESTING*

As we look ahead toward February we have been preparing as a staff to help our students be successful during their Iowa Assessment Testing, February 4th – 15th. Listed below are some tips for testing that you can look over with your students to help them become prepared to do their best!

1. Mark down test days on your calendar so you and your child are both aware of testing dates.
2. Encourage your student to stay confident and calm.
3. Keep a positive attitude about tests.
4. Talking about the test with your child can relieve stress about test taking.
5. Be sure to get a good night sleep.
6. Make sure that your child gets up early enough so that he/she will be on time to school.
7. Ensure that your child eats a healthy breakfast and avoid heavy foods that may make him/her groggy and avoid high sugar foods that may make him/her hyper.
8. Remind them to READ each questions carefully and all answers before they commit to an answer and mark it on their sheet.
9. Encourage your student to take their time and ask questions if they are confused.
10. Encourage your child to do well but don't pressure him/her. You may stress him/her out. It is important for your child to stay relaxed for the test.

### *KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP*

Kindergarten Round Up will take place Wednesday, February 27th for Odebolt-Arthur. If you have a student who is planning to attend school next year, please contact the main office for registration information so that your student may come and visit us on this day as they prepare for a new school year. Please bring your student's birth certificate and immunization records for us on that day. Current kindergarten students will not have school on this day to accommodate the activities for round up. The plan for the day is listed below as well as contact information you may need. Parents will need to drop off their students to begin the day at 8:15 am and students will stay at school until parents pick them up at 1:00 pm.

1. Start school at 8:15 am
2. Teachers will escort them to their classrooms in the morning from the MPR
3. Get to know you Activity
4. Recess/Specials
5. All about School
6. Rotation of Learning Activities
7. Lunch/Recess
8. Dismissal at 1:00 pm

### *MRS. WUNSCHER'S THIRD GRADE CLASSROOM*

During the month of December we completed a unit called Christmas around the world. The students discovered what country or countries their ancestors originated from, and they also had to complete a family tree. They had to write a five-sentence paragraph about their heritage country, draw and color the country's flag, and they could bring a food from their country or an artifact.

Along with this, we discussed how other countries celebrate Christmas and what traditions did our ancestors' bring with them when they came to United States. We started the unit with Mexico. Mrs. Lozier came into the classroom and made Mexican s'mores with them, and we made poinsettias out of construction paper. For our next country, we jumped to Germany. We welcomed Mrs. Buehler into our classroom. She made gingerbread cookies with us, and we learned that the Christmas tree came from Germany. Another country we discussed was Denmark. Mrs. Peters has family that currently lives in Denmark, so she gave us a PowerPoint presentation and made us Ableskiver. We finished the unit learning about Ireland, Greece, and England. This unit gave the students knowledge about other countries in a fun and enjoyable way.

### *NURSING NOTES - ANGIE KASTNER, SCHOOL NURSE*

#### **RISE IN PERTUSSIS ILLNESS LEADS TO CHANGE IN SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

During 2012, a large increase in the number of cases of pertussis (whooping cough) was reported in Iowa. More than 1450 persons were diagnosed with pertussis- a 425% increase from the state average in the previous 5 years. The highest rate of illness was in children ages 10 to 14. Studies show that protection from pertussis received through vaccinations given to infants and preschoolers diminishes in 5 to 10 years and results in a higher rate of infection among adolescents. For this reason, the Iowa Administrative Code will change to require a dose of Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis) for students entering Grade 7 in the 2013-2014 school year. The additional booster dose of Pertussis Vaccine will protect children at the age where they are most at risk for the illness.

To make it easier for parents to comply with the new vaccination requirement, the Iowa Department of Public Health will provide Tdap vaccine for local county public health agencies to administer to adolescents at school based clinics. The Public Health Departments from Sac and Ida Counties have offered to work with our school district to provide Tdap vaccinations for students in grades 6 through 12. The clinics will be held at the Middle School and High School during the second semester of this school year. Questions about the vaccinations may be directed to Sac County Public Health (712-662-4785.) To meet the requirements of the state health department, students will be required to sign up for the vaccination prior to the clinics so that the correct number of doses can be ordered.

Please watch for more information and permission consents for the Tdap vaccination with your child's next report card. Consent will also be available on the school website and the middle and high school offices.

### *MR. MIESNER'S MEMO:*

The OA Elementary Physical education classes have been working hard all year long. Students have learned many different and valuable skills. A portion of the time has been devoted to jump rope. We are currently full stride in our jump rope unit. We will be culminating our unit with the Jump Rope For Heart event. The event will be held February 1st, in the OA gymnasium. February 1st is also national Wear Red Day! I encourage all staff and community members to help celebrate this day and the fight against heart disease by wearing red. If you would like more information, please contact Jeff Miesner, [mailto:jmiesner@oabcig.org]jmiesner@oabcig.org. You may also go to the JRFH website, [http://www.aahperd.org/jump]http://www.aahperd.org/jump

### *PRE-K NEWS:*

The Odebolt Arthur Pre-K has been working on getting back into the routine in 2013! The kids were excited to get back to school and seeing their friends again. We spend time working on fine/gross motor skills, reading stories, doing art projects, playing outside in the snow, and learning through playing.

We celebrated our 100th day of school at the end of January. The kids had fun making a 100th day snack, coloring a pattern of 100, doing 100 exercises, and counting to 100. It is a day they look forward to from the beginning of school!

We will celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday and spend the week doing Seuss themed activities such as reading Dr. Seuss books, putting together Dr. Seuss puzzles, making and eating green eggs and ham.

We are looking forward to taking a spring field trip to the Denison Nature Center in the spring and a field trip out to the Schroeder Farm to ride horses! What a fun way to wrap up a year that is going by so quickly!

The kids will look forward to K for a Day and we will welcome a new bunch of friends at Pre-K roundup later this spring!

### *TAG PROGRAMS:*

The OA Elementary and OA-BCIG Middle School TAG program will be holding their local Invent Iowa Invention Convention on Friday, January 25th, 2013. All students have the opportunity to become an OA-BCIG inventor. Invent Iowa is a statewide outreach program developed to allow students to explore the invention process. As a means of learning creative thinking and problem solving skills, students are encouraged to identify a real-world problem and develop their own invention that successfully solves this problem. Elementary students received an informational pep talk about Invent Iowa from the 5th grade TAG students. Middle school students were informed of the opportunity through the daily announcements. Odebolt-Arthur began participating in Invent Iowa in 1990, and the TAG program has continued to sponsor the problem-solving event each year. Our top three winners will be announced on the day of the convention.



# **CURRICULUM CLIPS**

## **NEAL UTESCH, CURRICULUM DIRECTOR**

### ***CURRICULUM UPDATE:***

Materials for math have arrived for teacher to review from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and materials from Prentice Hall are on their way. Teachers have a chance to review the materials and decide what would be a best fit for our current standards, the Common Core standards, and what materials will help to push our students as they advance through the OA and BCIG school districts. When a decision is made, then we can look at possible purchases that will need to be made for math materials in the district.

### ***DISTRICT LEADERSHIP:***

The District Leadership team will meet on February 7th with two representatives from the Northwest Area Education Agency (NWAEA). Katy Evenson and Sherri Blake will work with the team to train them in the Iowa Core Alignment Tool (ICAT) process. This leadership team along with the building administrators will then implement the ICAT program during our next 1/ day professional development day on March 8th. During this training the teaching staff will take our current curriculum and using the ICAT program they will align our current standards and benchmarks with the new common core. In the end we will have a completed document that can outline our problem areas in curriculum and help us to better align the current standards and benchmarks that are in place with the new common core of Iowa.

### ***CAC COMMITTEE:***

CAC/SIAC committee was chosen and welcome letters sent to all new members of this committee were sent out with communication of our meeting schedule in place for the 2012-13 school year. We are currently scheduled to have our first meeting in February on the 12th. During this meeting, the group will work toward developing our goals for the present school year into the fall of 2013. These goals will drive the purpose of the SIAC team and give direction to the group on what may need to be addressed in the district. This group will work closely with the school board as they look to develop their committee goals.

### ***IOWA ASSESSMENTS:***

Iowa Assessments have been scheduled in the OA and BCIG school districts and will take place at the following times: OA Elementary and BCIG Elementary will take theirs the week of Feb. 4th – Feb. 15th, with plans for make up test to take place during the week of Feb. 18th – 22nd. OA-BCIG High School and OA-BCIG Middle School will take the Iowa Assessments/ITEDS January 28th – Feb. 8th. All testing will be completed by the end of February and sent into the state for evaluation. All students will take the full battery of test this year so that a base line data collection can be established on the new testing format for our students.

### ***ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:***

On March 17, 2013, administrators will travel to Sioux City to a site visit meeting to discuss some of the key accreditation topics to help our school prepare for this important event. As an administrative team we have been working to collect all the necessary artifacts needed for our visit and will begin to work on our overall presentations for the OA and BCIG school districts as well as develop a plan for the many interview teams that will participate in representing our districts during the visit. Look for more information on this in upcoming newsletters.

I have enrolled the OA and BCIG school districts for the Smarter Balance Assessment Trial that will take place this spring 2013. If selected the district will take a standardized assessment on-line that will help the state to collect data on a new tool they plan to utilize in the future. The district may be notified by the end of February if we have been selected.

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.

### ***LIBRARY NEWS:***

The OA-BCIG High School library fundraiser with Barnes & Noble will be held Sunday, February 17 and Monday, February 18 (President's Day) at the Barnes & Noble store in Sioux City during regular store hours. Patrons may also order online from February 17-23 at [www.bn.com/bookfairs](http://www.bn.com/bookfairs). Barnes & Noble offers books, music, DVDs, educational toys, gift products, the Nook and so much more. Unfortunately, eBooks, textbooks, and magazines do not count towards our book profit.


Supporting our library is easy. Clip the voucher with our book fair ID number, visit the Barnes and Noble store, select your merchandise, present your voucher and make your payment. If shopping online, you must mark the box that says "check this box if this is a book fair." This is located on the payment page. Another box will pop up asking you to type in the book fair ID number located on the voucher. If you are a regular Barnes and Noble customer, you will need to click "change" on the payment tab to find the above mentioned box.

We appreciate your support. We purchased four Nook Simple Touches last year plus a nice selection of books. Please feel free to share this information with family members. Online orders can be placed from any where as long as the buyer uses our ID number.

For more information, please visit the OA-BCIG Library Information page located under Library Systems on the school web page. The voucher is found on page 10 of the newsletter.

**OA-BCIG Percent Proficiency Levels Iowa Assessments 2012-13**

OA Grade	Math	Reading	Science
2 <sup>nd</sup>	70.50%	58.90%	70.60%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	77.50%	64.60%	80.70%
4 <sup>th</sup>	74.10%	66.70%	81.50%
5 <sup>th</sup>	66.70%	77.80%	66.70%
BCIG Grade	Math	Reading	Science
2 <sup>nd</sup>	87.20%	83.0%	74.5%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	86.30%	80.4%	90.2%
4 <sup>th</sup>	73.00%	77.80%	85.7%
5 <sup>th</sup>	72.7%	68.2%	84.1%
OA-BCIG Grade	Math	Reading	Science
6	84.40%	62.50%	78.10%
7	87.30%	70.90%	70.90%
8	88.30%	78.30%	76.70%
OA-BCIG Grade	Math	Reading	Science
9	80.80%	71.50%	81.20%
10	90.40%	81.90%	89.20%
11	82.00%	83.30%	87.50%




**Barnes & Noble  
Bookfair**  
supporting  
**OABCIG  
High School**

February 17 and 18<sup>th</sup>  
Barnes & Noble  
Southern Hills Mall Sioux City  
Bookfair ID Number 10968162

Please present this voucher prior to making your purchase. A percentage of the net sale will be contributed to your school/organization.\*

\*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships, textbooks, magazine subscriptions, video games, purchases made at Cafés owned and operated by Starbucks, and other items Barnes & Noble may exclude from time to time in its sole discretion are not eligible for bookfair sales. Institutional discounts may not be applied. See [BNC.COM/bookfairs](http://BNC.COM/bookfairs) for more details and to shop online.




*PROPOSED APR GOALS FOR THE 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEARS:*

- By the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school years, the math achievement of the students in the 9th Grade will improve. Specifically, the percentage of students in grade 9 scoring at the proficient level will increase by comparing 9th grade scores from 2011-2012 (80.8%) to 9th grade scores from 2012-2013.
- By the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school years, the reading achievement of the students in the 6th Grade will improve. Specifically, the percentage of students in grade 6 scoring at the proficient level will increase by comparing 6th grade scores from 2011-2012 (62.5%) to 6th grade scores from 2012-2013.
- By conclusion of the 2012-2013 school years, the science achievement of the students in the 7th Grade will improve. Specifically, the percentage of students in grade 7 scoring at the proficient level will increase by comparing 7th grade scores from 2011-2012 (70.9%) to 7th grade scores from 2012-2013.


*PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR & IMPORTANT DATES:*

District Leadership Team Meeting – February 7, 2013 @ 2:30 pm in HS District Offices  
 Building Level PD – February 13, 2013 @ 1:30 pm  
 Students will be dismissed at 1:00 pm on this day.

***HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!***



# Activity Calendar for February 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<p>1 Middle School Assessments</p> <p>4:00pm MS WR @ LeMars</p> <p>6:00pm WVC BB Tourney Boys Varsity TBD</p>	<p>2 *State Large Group Speech Contests *8:00am Future Stars Youth Intramural BB Tourney @ Odebolt *9:00am Proficiency FFA Judging @ Manson *12:00pm Sectional WR @ Rockwell City *1:00pm Bowling vs Denison @ Ida Grove *6:00pm WVC BB Finals @ Ida Grove</p>
3	<p>4 Middle School Assessments *4:00pm Bowling @ Hawarden *4:00pm MS WR @ Rockwell City *6:00pm BB JVR/JV Boys BB vs E. Sac @ Ida Grove *6:00pm BB JVR/JV Girls @ Sac City</p>	<p>5 Regional Dual Wrestling TBD  4:30pm BB Girls vs. Sioux City West JVR/JV/V  4:30pm BB Boys @ Sioux City West JVR/JV/V</p>	<p>6 </p>	<p>7 BCIG 4th Grade to Sympathy Orchestra  5:00pm FASFA Fill Out Night  6:00pm BB JVR/JV Boys @ Lawton</p>	<p>8 4:00pm Bowling @ Minden vs Tri-Center</p>	<p>9 ACT Testing *8:00am Booster Club 6th-8th grade Girls BB Tourney @ Odebolt *12:00pm District Wrestling @ Harlan *7:00pm G BB Regional Tourney</p>
<p>10 </p>	<p>11 Odebolt Elem. Iowa Assessment *4:00pm MS WR vs KP/AA/OA-BCIG @ Pierson *6:30pm School Board Meeting *7:00pm B BB District Tourney</p>	<p>12 Odebolt Elem. Iowa Assessment  4:00pm MS WR @ Early  6:00pm Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting</p>	<p>13 *Odebolt Elem. Iowa Testing *State Dual Team Wrestling Tourney *1:00 Dismissal ~ Professional Development *5th Grade Honor Choir *6:00pm Athletic Booster Meeting *7:00pm G BB Regional Tourney</p>	<p>14 Odebolt Elem. Iowa Assessment *State Wrestling Tournament *Bowling Regionals *B BB District Tourney *Odebolt Elem. Valentine's Party</p>	<p>15 Odebolt Elem. Iowa Assessment  State Wrestling Tournament</p>	<p>16 State Wrestling Tournament  All-State Large Group Speech  7:00pm G BB Regional Tourney Finals</p>
17	<p>18 <b>No School - President's Day</b>  *National FFA Week *4:00pm FFA SE Sub District @ OA-BCIG</p>	<p>19 *National FFA Week *Hoagie Sales Kickoff *4:00pm MS WR @ Merville *B BB District Tourney</p>	<p>20 National FFA Week</p>	<p>21 National FFA Week *HS State Bowling Tourney *4:00 WR @ Rockwell City *7:00pm High School Pops Concert</p>	<p>22 National FFA Week  HS State Bowling Tourney</p>	<p>23 MS BVU Honor Band @ Storm Lake *District Individual Speech Contest *8:00am Kiwanis BB Tournament 4th/5th Gr. G/B@ Ida Grove</p>
24	<p>25 *Girls State BB Tournament *4:00pm MS WR @ Sgt. Bluff *WVC Vocal Festival @ Lawton</p>	<p>26 Girls State BB Tournament  4:00pm MS WR @ Spencer</p>	<p>27 Girls State BB Tourney</p>	<p>28 Girls State BB Tourney  7:00pm MS Music Pops Concert @ Odebolt</p>		



## To Postal Patron

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### ACT WORKSHOP

Western Iowa Tech Community College is excited to extend an invitation to OA-BCIG juniors and sophomores to attend the Chad Cargill ACT Test Prep Session. The event will be held on the Western Iowa Tech Community College Campus February 13th from 12:30-4:00 in our Corporate College Conference Center B174.

The Chad Cargill workshop is a practical hands-on instruction session. Chad recently graduated from Oklahoma State with a degree in Industrial Engineering. While in high school, Chad took the ACT 18 times and raised his score from a 19 to a 32. This workshop is packed full of relevant, practical information on how to increase your ACT score as he did. It shows you that the ACT is beatable and that each test will ask you the same questions just worded differently. The workshop covers what will be on the test and how to master the techniques. The workshop is not a practice test. It covers general ideas about the ACT as a whole and the individual sections of English (including what the test-makers are looking for and the relevant English rules needed for the test), math (including exactly what formulas and rules you will need to answer virtually every question), reading (including three strategies on how to best take the reading comprehension section), and science (including common question types and strategies to understand and beat the science reasoning section).

The price for a student to attend this workshop is \$30.00. Students are also able to purchase an ACT Prep Book for \$20.00 and calculators programmed with math formulas for \$120 or \$150.

If a junior or sophomore would like to attend this workshop they must sign up in the high school guidance office by Wednesday, February 6th. Payment must be made when signing up. Students must provide transportation.

### FILL OUT THE FAFSA LAB NIGHT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 5:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Families of seniors who would like help filling out the FAFSA electronically are encouraged to attend the Fill Out the FAFSA Lab Night on Thursday night, February 7, from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Representatives from ICAN will be present to help seniors and their parents fill out the FAFSA form. It should take about 45 minutes to complete the FAFSA, so families are asked to come at convenient time between 5:00 –7:00 pm. A checklist of required documents and needed information can be found on the OA-BCIG web page - [www.oabcig.org](http://www.oabcig.org) Go to OABCIG HS, click on the house icon above OABCIG High School, scroll down to “ more”, then find Senior College and Financial Aid info. Seniors were given this sheet in December. We need to have at least ten families sign up to attend the FAFSA Lab Night in order to host it. Please call the high school office at 364-3371 by February 1, to sign up for a time slot.

### ACT DATES

<u>Test Dates</u>	<u>Regular Deadline</u>
Feb. 9, 2013	Jan. 11, 2013
April 13, 2013	March 8, 2013
June 8, 2013	May 3, 2013

*Register online -[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)*

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb. 7 – Fill Out The FAFSA Lab Night
Feb. 16 – ACT Workshop - WITCC
March 13 – Juniors -ASVAB test

ACT CODE – 162-129

**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 or veteran's status. If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 800-457-4416.*