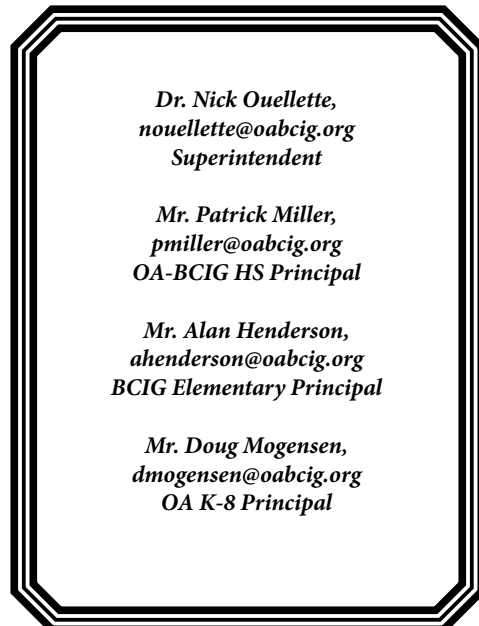




November 2013
Volume V Number 4

OA-BCIG INSIGHT

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE ODEBOLT-ARTHUR
AND BATTLE CREEK-
IDA GROVE COMMUNITY
SCHOOL DISTRICTS



Dr. Nick Ouellette,
nouellette@oabcig.org
Superintendent

Mr. Patrick Miller,
pmiller@oabcig.org
OA-BCIG HS Principal

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

Mr. Doug Mogensen,
dmogensen@oabcig.org
OA K-8 Principal

*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 BY DR. NICK OUELLETTE

THE YEAR OF THE COMMITTEE!

We are well into the school year and things are going very well. We have several different committees that are meeting and working towards the common goal of improving education for all kids. The committees range from teacher leadership to facilities as well as building level committees to provide feedback to the administration.

This past spring the state legislature passed a new educational reform law to enhance instruction and provide opportunity for teacher-leaders in all districts and buildings across the state. We have set up a Teacher Leadership and Compensation Committee to study different plans from around the country and to create a joint plan for OA and BCIG. The committee has met a couple of times to gather information about the new law and also to begin the construction of a plan. The State requires the plan be submitted no later than January 31st, 2014. Our goal on the committee is to have a plan completed by mid-January to present to the School Boards for approval prior to submitting to the state. As we work through and complete parts of the plan we will make them available on our website.

The BCIG School District has created a Facility Committee to look at the current needs of the district and to develop a 10-year facility plan. The committee has met twice to look at the current condition of the buildings and outdoor facilities and start to compile a list of wants and needs for the district. We hope to have a plan

to present to the school board by mid-spring.

The last sets of committees that we have been implementing are at the building level through Principal Advisory Committees (PAC) and at the district level a Superintendent Advisory Committee (SAC). The PACs have been meeting biweekly to discuss items and challenges related to each of the buildings. The SAC has met once to discuss items related to the entire district including communication with the general public and staff recognition. Through all of the committee work we feel we are able to get a well-rounded perspective on decision-making in the districts. As always, should you have any questions please feel free to contact me by phone (OA 668-2289) or (BCIG 364-2255). You can also reach me by email at nouellette@oabcig.org.



Breakfast & Lunch Menus for November 2013

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p><i>In accordance with Federal Law and USDA policy, this institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.</i></p> <p><i>Skim & 1% Milk, Fruit and Juice served daily</i> *Available at High School only</p>				<p>1 BCIG B: Breakfast Wrap BCIG L: Crispito, Spanish Rice, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Salsa, Refried Beans, Peaches, Apple OA B: Egg Wrap OA L: Fish Sandwich WG Bun, Green Beans, Peaches, Strawberry Spinach Salad, Rice Krispy Bar</p>
<p>4 BCIG B: Breakfast Pizza BCIG L: WG corn Dog, Mari. Fresh Veggie Salad, Corn *1/2 PB Sand., Strawberry Cup, Orange OA B: Nutrigrain Bar OA L: Turkey Burger, WG Bun, Tomato, Onion, Radish, Peppers, Peaches, Vanilla Pudding</p>	<p>5 BCIG B: Assorted Cereal WG Toast BCIG L: Turkey Burger, WG Bun, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Pineapple, Apple OA B: Whole Wheat Pancake OA L: Beef Tips, Baby Carrots, Mashed Potatoes, 4 Bean Salda, Trop Fruit, Orange, Yellow Peppers</p>	<p>6 BCIG B: Scrambled Eggs, WG Toast BCIG L: Mosaccioli, *Mixed Veggies, Fresh Veggie Bar, Butter Sandwich, Mandarin Oranges, Apple OA B: Breakfast Pizza OA L: Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Grapes, Romaine Salad, Mixed Fruit</p>	<p>7 BCIG B: Breakfast Round *Cereal BCIG L: Cheesesticks w/ Marinara, Spinach-Salad w/ tomatoes, Peas, Rocky Road Pudding, Pears, Bananas OA B: Choc. Chip Muffin OA L: Grilled Cheese, Marinated Veg Salad, Cucumbers, Peas, Strawberries</p>	<p>8 BCIG B: Egg Patty, Bacon, WG Toast BCIG L: BBQ Pork Rib WG Bun, Sweet Potato Fries, Green Beans, Applesauce, Orange OA B: Cherry Fruidal OA L: Mandarin Orange Chicken, Brown Rice, Broccoli, Romaine Salad, Pineapple, Apricots</p>
<p>11 BCIG B: WG Pancakes Sausage Links BCIG L: Chicken Patty, WG Bun, Broccoli w/ Cheese Sauce, Cooked Carrots, Mixed Fruit, Apple OA B: Pop Tarts OA L: Cheese Filled Breadsticks, Mariana Sauce, Baby Carrots, Romaine Lettuce, Ranch, Pears</p>	<p>12 BCIG B: WG Bagel, Cream Cheese, Yogurt BCIG L: Taco In A Bag, Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, Salsa, Black Bean Salad, Peaches, Orange OA B: Blueberry Muffin OA L: Egg Omelet, Hash Browns, Nutrigrain Bars, Tropical Fruit, Juice</p>	<p>13 BCIG B: Cheese Omelet, WG Toast BCIG L: Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Fresh Veggie Bar, Pineapple, Apple OA B: WG Cinn. Bun OA L: Chicken Sandwich, WG Bun, Green Beans, Cucumbers, Romaine Lettuce, Ranch, Cinn. Applesauce</p>	<p>14 BCIG B: Cinnamon Bun, *Cereal BCIG L: Beef Tips, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, Dinner Roll *Bread/ Butter Strawberries & Bananas, Pears OA B: Cereal, HB Egg OA L: Chili, Carrots, Cinn. Roll w/icing, Oranges</p>	<p>15 BCIG B: Breakfast Wrap, Salsa BCIG L: Tomato Soup, Grilled Cheese, Celery/ Carrot Sticks, Applesauce Cup, Orange OA B: Breakfast Wrap OA L: BBQ Turkey, WG Bun, Cucumbers, Green Beans, Red Pepper Strips, Peaches</p>
<p>18 BCIG B: Breakfast Pizza BCIG L: Pork Patty, WG Bun, Baked Beans, Cole-slaw, Mandarin Oranges, Apple OA B: French Toast Stix OA L: Spaghetti, Meat Sauce, Romaine, Lettuce, Ranch, Cherry Tomatoes, Cauliflower, Trop. Fruit</p>	<p>19 BCIG B: Assorted Cereal, WG Toast BCIG L: Mandarin Orange Chicken, Brown Rice, Cooked Carrots, Broc-Cauli Salad, Pears, Orange OA B: Cereal Toast OA L: Popcorn Chicken, Cooked Carrots, Strawberries, WG SMB, Rice Krispy Bar</p>	<p>20 BCIG B: Cheese Omelet, WG Toast BCIG L: Chicken Nuggets, Fresh Veggie Bar, *1/2 PB Sand. Applesauce, Pear OA B: Blueberry Waffle OA L: Hamburger, WG Bun, Corn, Pickle, Onion, Tomato, Fruit Juice Bar, Banana</p>	<p>21 BCIG B: WG Pumpkin Choco Chip Muffin, Yogurt BCIG L: WG Sausage Pizza, Mari. Fresh Veggie Salad, Green Beans, Apricots, Grapes OA B: Breakfast Pizza OA L: Pork Pattie, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Broccoli, Fruit</p>	<p>22 BCIG B: Egg Patty, Bacon, WG Toast BCIG L: French Toast Sticks, Sausage Patty, Hash Browns, Baby Carrots, Peaches, Apple OA B: Apple Fruidal OA L: Chicken Pattie, WG Bun, Mari. Bean Salad, Cukes, Applesauce</p>
<p>25 BCIG B: Sausage Pancake BCIG L: Turkey, Au gratin Potatoes, Corn, Cranberry Sauce, Dinner Roll, Pumpkin Bar, Mixed Fruit, Orange OA B: Sausage Bagel OA L: Maidrite, WG Bun, Cooked Carrots, Romaine, Ranch, Oranges Animal Crackers, Apricots</p>	<p>26 BCIG B: Cereal Bar, WG Toast BCIG L: BBQ Chicken Breast, WG Bun, Spinach Salad, Mixed Veggies, Pineapple, Apple OA B: Poptarts OA L: B & C Burrito, Broccoli, Corn, Radishes, Pineapple</p>	<p>27 <i>No School</i></p>	<p>28 <i>No School</i></p>	<p>29 <i>No School</i></p>
				

NOW AVAILABLE: PAY LUNCH BALANCES ONLINE

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 your credit card or bank information. You will need to enter this information each time you wish to put money in the students' account. An email will be sent to confirm your transaction and your students' lunch balance in JMC will be updated immediately.

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.



NOTES FROM THE NURSE ANGIE KASTNER, BSN RN

NEW IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT

The Iowa Department of Public Health has made changes to the Iowa Administrative Code that now require a dose of Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis) vaccine for all adolescents entering the 7th grade. This requirement became effective at the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year.

This requirement change is due to the large increase in cases of pertussis (whooping cough) in the US and in Iowa in the past few years. Studies indicate that protection from pertussis received with vaccinations given before the child's entry into school wears off after 5-10 years, which means students in middle school, high school, and college age students are more at risk for pertussis.

If you have any questions about this requirement you can contact your local public health, your health care provider or the school nurse.

LIBRARY LINES MARY ROHLK, LIBRARIAN

The staff and students from the BCIG library would like to give a huge THANK YOU to OA-BCIG senior, Cassidy Bottjen. Cassidy raised over \$1350 this summer to purchase pillows, posters, book characters, and a document camera for the new library.

FREE resources for all students! Iowa AEA Online is provided by Prairie Lakes and Northwest Area Education Associations. Find access to three grade levels of Britannica Encyclopedia, SIRS Issues Researcher, Atomic Learning, AP Images, BookFlix and much more. Find the link under Library Systems on the school homepage. A username and password is required and is unique to each school building.

If your child does not remember this information, you may email OA-BCIG teacher librarian, Mary Rohlk (mrohlik@oabcig.org) for access information.

BCIG elementary and OA-BCIG freshman parents may want to bookmark another website, www.arbookfind.com. This website is searchable for book titles with Accelerated Reader tests. It will list the AR level and the points possible for each title. New tests are added each Friday.



VETERANS DAY NEVER FORGOTTEN

Veterans are invited to a free meal served by OABCIG Foods and Cuisine students at the Ida Grove Rec. Center on November 11th!

Serving time will be from 12 to 1

Please rsvp by November 1st

Call OABCIG high school @ 364-3371

OR

email anielsen@oabcig.org

HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS PATRICK MILLER, PRINCIPAL

SUCCESS

Too often we focus on predictors such as GPA, ACT or Iowa Assessment Scores as the main signs of a successful college, and life, career. While those things are important, we also need to focus on 5 other qualities that can be developed to provide a better foundation for success as they graduate and move on to careers or college. (Taken from an article entitled "The Five Greatest Predictors of Student Success" <http://growingleaders.com/blog/student-success/>)

1. Getting connected to the right people
2. Possessing adaptability and resilience
3. Developing high emotional intelligence
4. Targeting a clear outcome
5. Making good decisions

So, how do we as a district help students develop these qualities?

1. **GETTING CONNECTED TO THE RIGHT PEOPLE** – Within our School To Career program we constantly stress that students take numerous job shadows throughout their high school career. This allows students to not only learn more about a potential career, but it also allows students to start making connections within various career fields.

2. **POSSESSING ADAPTABILITY AND RESILIENCE** – As a building, teachers do put deadlines on students and expect them to meet those deadlines. If students choose not to, there are consequences. Possibly leading to a failing grade. It happens, and has happened since students started attending school a long time ago. As parents don't feel you always have to rescue them every time they experience difficulty. It is ok for all people to fail periodically. It is going to happen in life. Being successful is about overcoming those failures, figuring out how to react when things do not go your way. Obviously there are times that you need to be an advocate for your child.

3. **DEVELOPING HIGH EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE** – Many people now believe that if a student has high self-awareness, self-management, social awareness and relationship management they are more likely to be successful in life. Schools are teaching these soft skills to not only increase graduation rates, but to make kids more employable. At the high school we have implemented things such as Purple Hands, Rachel's Challenge, and we will be starting an Anti-Bullying club soon. Help your child work on organization skills, getting work done, and working to access more help when needed. This does not always mean going to the teacher for individual help, although that is a great resource. Look online, there are plenty of homework help sites.

4. **TARGETING A CLEAR OUTCOME** – Help your child develop goals. All teachers, and coaches, have goals in mind, or help students/athletes develop goals they want to achieve. Work on open communication with your child's teachers, and coaches, and find out what those goals are. School, or work, can become a place where we become disengaged. To help combat this feeling it is important to

set goals, and work to achieve those goals. One of the main goals at the High School this year is to reduce the number of students who are receiving failing grades, it's not an easy battle, but an important one. If your child is failing don't wait for the school to contact you, initiate the conversation yourself. We all want the same thing, success for your child.

5. **MAKING GOOD DECISIONS** – Obviously an area schools and parents put an emphasis on daily. Good decisions can range from choosing the appropriate clothing to choosing to complete homework in a timely manner. As parents, please continue to monitor grades, and contact the school with concerns.

SEMESTER TESTS

Semester Tests will be held on December 19th and 20th. On Thursday, December 19, periods 1, 3, 5, and 7 will test, with periods 2, 4, 6, and 8 testing on Friday, December 20th. Each class will meet for 80 minutes.

During semester tests students have Open Campus, meaning if they are not testing they do not have to be in school. If you do not want your child to have the Open Campus option please contact the office.



TECH PLUS: CARBON DIOXIDE DRAGSTERS BY MR. C

The juniors and seniors at Hilltop Engineering have been designing, constructing, racing and evaluating a wooden car designed like a dragster and powered by an eight gram CO₂ cartridge. Hilltop Engineering is the fictitious company the students in Tech Plus "work" for as they receive the various production requests (labs) during the school year.

The early stages of the design process included computer research, visualizing designs while drawing thumbnail sketches and shaping a Styrofoam block. Students were all given a wooden block, steel axles, and plastic tires to use while constructing their design. The tools in the shop, especially the band saws and sanders, were busy during the construction phase. There were size specifications each car had to meet involving mass, length, and width ranges.

The project has two graded components. A panel of 13 students and teachers evaluated the esthetics of the cars one morning before school. The cars were then put on a sixteen place bracket and "raced until they placed". A total of 34 races were run on the south end of the high school gym.

Students completed a production folder that included their thumbnail sketches, a production list explaining the steps they took during the process, four scaled sketches from various views, and a lengthy After Action Report. This AAR is the evaluative portion of the lab as students ascertained how well things went and what changes they would make in their cars. The students also evaluate the parameters that the production request placed on the car.

DUAL CREDIT BUSINESS OFFERINGS BY MRS. BECK

Students have the opportunity to enroll in two business classes that will allow them to earn up to 8 college credits from Western Iowa Tech. The classes are entitled Word/PowerPoint and Excel/Access. These are dual credit classes meaning that the student earns both high school and college credit and will generate a college transcript. The classes are taught by Mrs. Beck.

How does dual credit work? Dual credit classes are a part of the College Now program at WIT. Classes are held at the high school and are taught by an instructor that is approved and meets all college standards. The curriculum for the course is developed in close association with academic leaders at WIT. The OABCIG school district pays the cost of the student's tuition and the student is responsible for purchasing their textbooks. These classes are the equivalent of taking Basic Word Processing, Basic Presentation Software, Basic Spreadsheets, and Basic Databases at WIT. The credits earned would fulfill the computer general education requirement for WIT's Associate of Applied Science degree or would be the equivalent of the required computer class needed for an A.A. or A.S. degree. Students who decide to attend WIT after high school graduation are eligible to receive a \$500 scholarship if they get at least a "C" in College Now courses. If the student does not attend WIT upon graduation, they would need to make arrangements to transfer the credits out to a school of their choice.

How does a dual credit class differ from a Great Start class (formerly called PSEO)? Great Start classes are online college courses that students can enroll in and complete them over the computer. With dual credit, students are actually in the classroom and have a teacher present to instruct them.

Students have a choice of taking Keyboarding, Word/PowerPoint or Excel/Access in order to fulfill the computer requirement for graduation from OABCIG. Other business courses that are offered at OABCIG include Marketing, Management, Desktop Publishing, Business Law, Accounting I & II, Web Page Design, and Personal Finance. If you have any questions about the dual credit business courses or any of the business course offerings, please contact Heidi Beck at hbeck@oabcig.org or call the high school at 364-3371.

WRESTLERS RETURN TO BATTLE OF WATERLOO BY HEAD COACH RANDY NIEMAN

The OA-BCIG Wrestling team will return to the Battle of Waterloo for the fourth consecutive year. The Battle is the premier dual tournament in the state, matching 32 teams from all three classes from across the state of Iowa. Last year the tournament was won by West Delaware of Manchester.

The wrestlers will compete in six dual meets over the two days against some of the best wrestlers in the state. The wrestlers get the experience of multiple day weigh-ins and competing in a larger arena. By the time the wrestlers conclude on Saturday, most will return home with multiple battle scars from the fierce competition.

The Battle of Waterloo will be held December 20th and 21st in Young Arena.

FALCON PRIDE!

THE GOOD DOCTOR BY KARIANN JURGENSEN

On Friday, November 15 and Saturday, November 16, the OABCIG Drama Department will be pleased to present Neil Simon's The Good Doctor. Performances will be held at 7:30 pm on the stage at OABCIG high school. Admission is \$3 for students and \$5 for adults.

The play is a collection of humorous scenes based on the tales of Russian writer Anton Checkov. The narrator (Checkov, played by Garrett Rohlk) introduces scenes that feature an unfortunate and potentially life-changing sneeze, an amateur tooth extraction, dicker over a drowning, and many more. The students in the cast are Garrett Rohlk, Connor Christenson, Bethany Stangl, Gable Sohm, Rachelle Duff, Angela Veit, Grace Lozier, Connor Musel, Blake Netherton, Paige Whitney, Jacob Henderson, Leah Lierman, Levi Nunemaker, Dallas Hare, Anna Dewey, Seth Wheeler, Kaylea Killian, Dalton Clausen, Stephen Stangl, and Olivia Freese.

HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR BY LINDA JOHNSON

Thanks to everyone who supported our latest fundraiser of frozen foods and gift items! And also THANK YOU to Ida County Thrivent for Lutherans for matching our funds to \$500! Another big thank you to everyone who attended our Fall Kick-Off Concert!

OA-BCIG GUIDANCE NEWS LIZ DENT, HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

FAFSA

Looking at costs of college can be pretty overwhelming today. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) allows parents to apply for federal financial aid for their students. Later this year, we will be hosting an event to help parents fill out the FAFSA form so that it can be as simple as possible for our families. Although the FAFSA form is not available until after January 1, parents can go online and apply for a pin number anytime at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>.

ACT TESTING

The ACT is offered throughout the entire 2013-2014 school year at local test sites in Mapleton, Denison and Storm Lake.

TEST DATES

- December 14, 2013
- February 8, 2014
- April 12, 2014
- June 14, 2014



ACT Code: 162-129

REGULAR DEADLINE

- November 8, 2013
- January 10, 2014
- March 7, 2014
- May 9, 2014



ACT PREP COURSE

This year OA-BCIG High School is offering a personalized ACT prep course through PrepMe. Because many scholarships and types of financial aid are based on ACT scores, our hope is that this prep course will give students the opportunity to achieve their highest possible score and gain the greatest amount of financial assistance possible. Please contact Mrs. Dent at ldent@oabcig.org for login information for your student!

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS

All scholarship information is available for students on the Google drive, and is also posted on the school website at www.oabcig.org. Please encourage your student to stay on top of applying for these opportunities – scholarships are a wonderful way to eliminate some of the financial burden of college!

COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES

College representatives come visit our school to meet with interested junior and seniors. This month, the following schools are scheduled to visit:

-Kirkwood Community College:

November 6 at 2:30

GREAT START CLASSES THROUGH WESTERN IOWA TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Great Start classes are online courses offered as dual credit through Western Iowa Tech and OA-BCIG High School. Juniors and seniors who tested as proficient on their Iowa Assessments in the 2012-2013 school year are eligible to take Great Start courses. These classes are a great way to begin building up college credit and eliminating some of the general education requirements for freshman year of college.



MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSES DOUG MOGENSEN, PRINCIPAL

A lot of school spirit was shared in the school as students and teachers dressed to support the Falcons during homecoming week. The week was capped off with the Falcon Olympics held in the O-A gym. PK through 8th grade students participated in a series of competitions for fun and to build school spirit. There were such games as an obstacle course, football throw, and balloon pass. All students and staff had a great time with this spirit building event.

To help build and support a positive student climate and focus on good behavior, the elementary will begin a card system that recognizes good behavior. Starting mid October, students who get caught doing positive things will get a leaf to put on the bulletin board in the main hallway. We want to see how big our pile of leaves can become and how many students “fall into good behavior.” Middle school students will continue Rachel’s Challenge. A special locker will be used to gather the good behaviors of our middle school students. Good things that our middle school students are doing will be shared.

Children doing homework can be stressful in any household. The U.S. Department of Education, www2.ed.gov, offers a few suggestions:

Set a regular time to do homework. A scheduled time, preferably not right before bed, works best. What works for one family may not work for another. Students may need a little down time after school. But a scheduled time to do homework, with the time posted for all to see, may benefit you and your student.

For middle school students, a required amount of homework time may be what works. This can be used to avoid the rushing through assignments or “forgetting” to bring assignments home. Pick a place for homework. A designated space such as the kitchen or dining room table works well. In front of the TV usually has its problems.

Remove distractions. Turn off the TV and other distractions. All members of the household may want to find a quiet activity during the homework time.

Provide supplies and resources. Have the necessary items needed to complete the homework available. You may need to contact your child’s teacher for necessary resources that you may need to complete the homework.

Set a good example. Let your children see you involve yourself in learning activities such as reading or doing math as you balance the checkbook. Talk to your children about what you do at work.

Be interested and interesting. Make time to take your child to the library to check out materials needed for homework (and for enjoyment) and read with your child as often as you can. Talk about school and learning activities in family conversations. Ask your child what was discussed in class that day. If she doesn’t have much to say, try another approach. For example, ask her to read aloud a story she wrote or to talk about what she found out from a science experiment.

Attend school activities, such as parent-teacher conferences, plays, concerts, open houses and sports events. If you can, volunteer to help in your child's classroom or at special events. Getting to know some of your child's classmates and their parents builds a support network for you and your child. It also shows your child that his home and school are a team.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE BY BOB SAUNDERS

The sixth grade science students are learning about scientific inquiry, metric units, and the tools of science.

Seventh grade science students are focusing in on cell structures and process while learning how to use a compound microscope.

The eighth grade science students are getting into motion, forces, and Newton's laws of motion, as they prepare, conduct, and present discoveries using scientific investigations.



ELEMENTARY EDICTS ALAN HENDERSON, PRINCIPAL

EVER CHANGING DATA

Data is being used more and more in schools than it ever has. We used to look at ITBS scores and students grades to determine how a student is doing. We now use many more data points to determine how a student is doing and to plan what to do for each child.

One of the first things we do each year is a diagnostic test in the area of reading to look at fluency, accuracy, and comprehension to gain a better understanding of what a child can do to determine how we want to teach them. This data helps teachers determine groups of students and what can be taught. These groups will change often to continue to meet the ever-changing needs of the child.

We also collect data in 6+1 Trait Writing. We look at the rubric (score sheet) from a sample of a child's writing to see how they are using the six traits. We continue to cover those six traits through out the year and then take another sample to look at later in the year to see how they have improved.

The AEA has us collect data in the area of reading, math, and writing three times a year. This is more information that we can use to see how students are doing and gives us some areas of focus to continue to see students improve.

Teachers do a lot of formative assessments in their classrooms on a regular basis to determine if students need to be re-taught as a class, or just pull a few to work with, or maybe just an individual. We also collect data from running records in reading, STAR reading, Successmaker. We are constantly looking at data to see that we are taking the most productive approach to reach each child where they are at, and to continue to help them be grow and be successful.



FOURTH GRADE VISITS COUNTRY SCHOOL

A return to the days of old for BCIG's 4th Graders was sponsored by the Ida County Historical Society during the month of September. Each of the BCIG's two sections were treated to a day of school at Moorehead park.

Activities included: flag respect, writing on slates, using pens dipped in ink, playing country school games, and pumping water by hand. Students received lessons in singing, reading, ciphering, orthography, penmanship, geography, and art.

The highlight of the day was a history hike to the old pioneer homestead at Moorehead Park. Students were given the chance to view many items that the pioneers used along with learning lots of interesting pieces of information.

We would like to thank all the country school teachers and the Historical Society for making this day very meaningful and worthwhile to all of us.

FOURTH GRADE EXPERIENCES FARM SAFETY DAY

Ag Safety Day was part of the Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom Program and was held at the Ida County Fairgrounds. Fourth graders from BCIG and Ridge View attended this program.

The program involved farm machinery, ATV safety, electricity, grain bins, gravity wagons, safety around animals and 911 calls. Students were treated to lunch that day and also received a free t-shirt. We would like to thank Farm Bureau and all the volunteers that helped teach us many valuable lessons about being on the farm.

THIRD GRADERS VISITED BY HS ATHLETES

Third graders that met their AR goal spent a nice fall afternoon outside reading with OABCIG High School Athletes. The athletes spoke to the students about the importance of reading and then partnered up for some reading time with the kids.



FIRST GRADERS HAVE BEEN BUSY!

BCIG first graders have taken several field trips during the last month.

During fire safety week, the students were taken to the Ida Grove fire station where they listened to local firemen. The children also toured the firestation, got to hold the water hose and were treated to a ride on the firetruck.

The first graders also got to visit Uncle LeRoy's Pumpkin Patch near Denison. They enjoyed the afternoon checking out the corn maze, petting the animals in the petting zoo and riding a hay rack. Each student got to pick their own pumpkin to take home with them.



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

K Outdoor Classroom 2013 was a big success thanks to all the volunteers and organizations that participated. The canoes were borrowed from the local Boy Scouts. The fishing gear was borrowed from the Conservation Office. Our school kitchen department prepared a nutritious sack lunch. The transportation department got us to and from the park safely. We had two retired teachers and two parent volunteers that led centers this year in addition to our four K teachers.

And last, but not least, we had many parents and grandparents who gave their time and energy Thanks!



ELEMENTARY MUSIC BY RENEE FRITZ

The upper elementary students get to participate in "World Music Drumming". "World Music Drumming" is a successful curriculum that engages students in drumming along with singing, moving, instruments and creating music. This curriculum teaches students how to focus, work together, show respect, create music without inhibitions, and play complicated rhythm patterns successfully.

This Curriculum was made possible through the generous donations of the Ida County Community Betterment Foundation and DonorsChoose.org (Teachers Ask You Choose). Thank you to community members who donated to this worthy project!



GUIDANCE NOTES JOLEEN BRADY, COUNSELOR



RED RIBBON WEEK

Last month we celebrated Red Ribbon week from October 21-25th. In our OA Elementary building we held a coloring contest, an assembly by our 5th grade TAG students with skits displaying how “A Healthy Me is Drug Free”, as well as a motivational assembly by Desirae Payne, called SKATE. (Skate stands for: Say no to being a bully (make the right choice), Keep your cool (don’t blow up with anger), Ask for help (from parents, teachers, other kids, the principal), Treat others right (remember the golden rule), and Encourage other (with words you speak).

In our middle school, we decorated classroom doors using the same theme of “A Healthy Me is Drug Free.” With the support of New Opportunities, the Sac & Ida County Sheriffs department, along with other volunteers from the community we held a mini Teen Maze during the afternoon of October 25th. The stations students observed displayed the dangers/warning signs of alcohol and drug use, along with the legal consequences that could occur. Our third station promoted our Random Acts of Kindness initiative, with quotes of kindness from each student. Posters from this activity will be posted around the school.

HEAD’S UP

We are excited to provide a program for small groups this year, facilitated by Counseling Services LLC in Sac City. Owners, Jim Coats and Karla Manternach, worked collaboratively with us in order to provide this opportunity. These small groups will be held at the school in Odebolt, for 6 sessions, each lasting one-hour. Emilie Mc Nace and Amy Riesberg, will be the facilitators of these groups.

They will also be available to schedule individual counseling sessions as well, before and/or after group sessions. If you have any questions about the groups or the individual counseling, please contact, Joleen Brady, School Counselor at 712-668-2827 or Counseling Services LLC at 712-662-3222.

CURRICULUM CLIPS ALICIA NELSON, CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

10 WAYS YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILDREN SUCCEED

As a parent, you are your child’s first and most important teacher. When parents and families are involved in their children’s schools, the children do better and have better feelings about going to school. In fact, many studies show that what the family does is more important to a child’s school success than how much money the family makes or how much education the parents have. There are many ways that parents can support their children’s learning at home and throughout the school year. Here are some ideas from various resources to get you started!

DEVELOP A PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUR CHILD’S TEACHERS AND SCHOOL STAFF

1. Get to know who’s who at your child’s school. There are many people at your school who are there to help your child learn, grow socially and emotionally, and navigate the school environment. Administrators, counselors, and teachers are available and happy to speak with you about any questions or concerns you might have.
2. Attend parent-teacher conferences and keep in touch with your child’s teacher. Schools usually have one or two parent-teacher conferences each year. You can bring a friend to interpret for you or ask the school to provide an interpreter. You can also ask to meet with your child’s teacher any time during the year. If you have a concern prior to conferences and can’t meet face-to-face, send the teacher a short note, email or set up a time to talk on the phone.

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD ACADEMICALLY

3. Find out how your child is doing. Ask the teacher how well your child is doing in class compared to other students. If your child is not keeping up, especially when it comes to reading, ask what you or the school can do to help. It’s important to act early before your child gets too far behind. Also be sure to review your child’s report card each time it comes out and ask questions if you’re not sure what something means.
4. Make sure that your child reads at home and gets homework done. Let your child know that you think education is important and that reading and homework needs to be done each day. You can help your child with reading and homework by setting aside a special place to concentrate, establishing a regular time for homework, and removing distractions such as the television and social phone calls during homework time. You can help by showing that you are interested, helping your child get organized, providing the necessary materials, asking your child about daily assignments, monitoring work to make sure that it is completed, and praising all of your child’s efforts.

5. Find homework help for your child if needed. If it is difficult for you to help your child with homework or school projects, see if you can find someone else who can help. Contact the school, tutoring groups, after school programs, churches, and libraries. Or see if an older student, neighbor, or friend can help.

6. Help your child prepare for tests. Tests play an important role in determining a student's grade. Your child may also take one or more standardized tests during the school year, such as the Iowa Assessments, and your child's teacher may spend class time on test preparation throughout the year. As a parent, there are a number of ways that you can support your child before and after taking a standardized test, as well as a number of ways you can support your child's learning habits on a daily basis that will help her be more prepared when it's time to be tested. Search "Help Your Child Prepare for Standardized Tests" on the internet and you'll find a variety of excellent resources for practice at home!

GET INFORMED AND BE AN ADVOCATE FOR YOUR CHILD

7. Ask questions. If something concerns you about your child's learning or behavior, ask the teacher or principal about it and seek their advice. Your questions may be like these — What specific problem is my child having with reading? What can I do to help my child with this problem? How can I help my child adjust and cope with social situations? How can I get my child to do homework? Which reading group is my child in?

8. Let the school know your concerns. Is your child doing well in school? Is he or she having trouble learning, behaving, or studying? Is there a problem with another student, teacher, or administrator? If you have a concern, expressing it is the first step and keeping an open mind for problem solving will benefit your child greatly.

Support your child's learning at home

9. Demonstrate a positive attitude about education to your children. What we say and do in our daily lives can help them to develop positive attitudes toward school and learning and to build confidence in themselves as learners. Showing our children that we both value education and use it in our daily lives provides them with powerful models and contributes greatly to their success in school. In addition, by showing interest in their children's education, parents and families can spark enthusiasm in them and lead them to a very important understanding—that learning can be enjoyable as well as rewarding and is well worth the effort required.

10. Encourage active learning. Children need active learning as well as quiet learning such as reading and doing homework. Active learning involves asking and answering questions, solving problems and exploring interests. Active learning also can take place when your child plays sports, spends time with friends, acts in a school play, plays a musical instrument or visits museums and bookstores. To promote active learning, listen to your child's ideas and respond to them. Let him jump in with questions and opinions when you read books together. When you encourage this type of give-and-take at home, your child's participation and interest in school is likely to increase.

A LETTER TO ELEMENTARY PARENTS:

On July 29, 2010, the Iowa Department of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for Mathematics K-12. The CCSS were developed in order to create a set of career and college ready standards. The K-8 standards for mathematics have created a roadmap for what students should know and be able to do for each grade. The design of the K-8 standards allows educators to focus, for each grade, on fewer concepts, but in greater depth. The CCSS calls for a balanced approach to mathematics curriculum and instruction. It is designed so that students will develop a deep and complete understanding of the grade level skills and concepts.

To respond to these demands of the CCSS and Iowa Department of Education, O.A. and B.C.I.G. Elementary schools have revised the elementary mathematics curriculum and through the adoption of a new mathematics program. The program, entitled Go Math!, is published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. It is specifically written to align to the CCSS.

In addition to a wide variety of resources that are available for students and teachers, the Go Math! program comes with a vast collection of online student materials, practice and games. It includes resources and tools to help students organize their thinking with visual models and graphic organizers. In addition, the program builds economic literacy through activities and online webisodes to reinforce educational concepts. As the school year progresses, your child will be using these resources frequently as a part of their math curriculum. Many student resources can be used at home for additional reinforcement.

If you would like further information about the CCSS please visit www.corestandards.org and follow the links to the standards for mathematics. For further information about Go Math! please visit www.hmheducation.com/gomath. For questions or comments regarding the materials or digital resources, please feel free to contact me via email or telephone.



Activity Calendar for November 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 National FFA Convention @ Louisville, KY 7:00 - 10:00pm Middle School Dance @ Odebolt	2 *Cross Country State Meet @ Fort Dodge *HS Honor Band Auditions *MS Honor Band Concert @ BVU in Storm Lake *National FFA Convention
3 	4	5 NWIDCA Junior High Honor Choir @ LeMars WVC Speech Festival @ Morningside College in Sioux City	6 5:30pm Music Boosters in HS Cafeteria	7 	8	9
10 	11 Girls BB and Bowling practices begin HS Blood Drive 6:30pm School Board Meeting	12 7:00pm MS Fall Concert @ Odebolt	13 1:00pm Early Dismissal <i>Professional Development Day</i> 6:00pm Athletic Boosters Meeting in HS Library	14 	15 7:30pm HS Fall Play @ HS Cafeteria	16 7:30pm HS Fall Play @ HS Cafeteria
17 	18 Boys BB and Wrestling practices begin 4:00pm MS BB G/B vs River Valley @ Odebolt	19 4:00pm MS BB Boys vs L-B @ Odebolt 4:00pm MS BB Girls @ Bronson	20 	21 All State Music Festival @ Ames OPUS Honor Music Festival @ Ames 4:00pm MS BB Boys @ Anthon, Girls @ Odebolt	22 All State Music Festival @ Ames	23 All State Music Festival @ Ames
	25 4:00pm MS BB Boys vs Ridge View @ Odebolt Girls @ Early	26 4:00pm MS BB 7th Boys @ Cherokee 8th Boys @ Odebolt	27 <i>Thanksgiving Break</i> No classes 	29 <i>Thanksgiving Break</i> No classes	30 	

To Postal Patron



HOW TO CATCH SCHOOL PRIDE

1. *Go to games and wear your school colors.*
2. *Don't be afraid to support your school, even if they lose.*
3. *Learn your schools cheers so you can cheer with the crowd*
4. *Participate in a variety of school activities and if you are a parent, encourage your children to do so.*
5. *Volunteer to help with or work at school activities if you are unable to participate in them.*
6. *Design a school t-shirt , bumper sticker or key chain.*
7. *Take photographs for the school.*
8. *Be respectful of fellow students or teammates and their parents as well as faculty members.*
9. *Be respectful of other schools.*
10. *Encourage others to show school spirit.*

OA Central Office

712-668-2289

BCIG Central Office

712-364-3687

OABCIG High School

712-364-3371

OABCIG Middle School

712-668-2827

OA Elementary School

712-668-2827

BCIG Elementary School

712-364-2360

FALCON PRIDE -- CATCH IT!

It is the policy of the Odebolt-Arthur and the Battle Creek-Ida Grove Community School Districts not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the districts' Equity Coordinator, Alan Henderson, BCIG Elementary Principal, 403 Barnes Street, Ida Grove, Iowa 51445, phone number: 712-364-2360 and email address: ahenderson@oabcig.org.