

The Administrator

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Michael J. Sieh

Lessons Learned!

"Lessons Learned" - Is this a topic I really want to approach? I love the theme, but wonder if I could write such an article that would make sense to anyone else. I think I will give it a try.

With the start of another school year, I know that many lessons will be learned. Some will have value while others will not. Some will last only a day, yet others will last a lifetime. Some will be joyful and some will be painful. Some will come in the classroom; some on the court, field, or course; and some at home. Some will be positive and some will be negative.

I almost sounded like a poet during the last paragraph, but I believe that everyone gets the point. I know each of you could add to my great poetry above. But we all know, lessons will be learned and these lessons come in many forms to my students, my staff, my parents, and me.

I am a firm believer that lessons learned are only the beginning of the next lesson to be learned. Regardless of the form of the lesson, the question I always have is - what do we do with the knowledge we now have? Do we apply the knowledge to our future decisions OR pretend like we gained nothing? I tend to judge people based upon them having high integrity (making the right decision at the right time). I believe that if you

take your new lesson and apply it to make the right decisions in the future, then the lesson was valuable to you. As a result, you are building character because of past lessons learned.

By now everyone is probably thinking that I'm just referring to life's lessons and not classroom lessons. For the most part, you are probably right, but this applies to those lessons learned in a classroom as well. For example, when I attend various conferences, I believe that it is my responsibility to bring back the lessons that I have learned and try to apply them to our school. Usually, this requires me to teach the lessons to others.

For a student, I would expect them to take the lessons learned in the classroom and apply them to additional learning, college, real life, etc. As a student gains additional valuable lessons, both educational and life, students start to develop maturity. Parents dream that their children will develop maturity!

As for myself, I had to learn lessons throughout my whole life. Some lessons had to be repeated while others took only once. My parents would attest to my own stubbornness at times. I never caused my dad to lose any hair, but I'm sure I turned the majority of them gray for him. By the way, my dad has a whole

head of wavy, gray hair. I'm NOT sure what I did to make his hair wavy. I'm still waiting for that lesson.

With all of this said, as parents, let us be patient with the lessons that our children will learn this academic year. Let us understand all the forms in which lessons come packaged. Let us not intervene in the learning process by taking on the responsibilities for the student. Let us endorse the process and always be informed before reacting.

Question: Know how to tell when you are getting older? Answer: You no longer remember the lessons you learned as a kid and have no sympathy towards students who make mistakes.

With that said, I want to encourage everyone to come see me if you have concerns throughout the school year. I promise that I will not force my will upon you, but instead sit down and talk about our past lesson learned and try to make sense out of the concern.

As I tell the students, I might not always tell you what you want to hear, but I will give you the best advice that I can. In return, I ask for your advice, especially when my judgment is cloudy. Those of you who know me know that I have never forgotten my roots and have appreciated the trails that I've traveled in creating my own LESSONS LEARNED!

Volume VII, Issue 2

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Reporters

Mr. Sieh..... Superintendent
Mr. Stogdill H.S. Principal
Mrs. McKeon..... Elementary Principal
Mrs. Marshall..... Guidance
Mrs. Chilcoat.. National Honor Society
Mrs. Schwartz FFA Advisor

Events Calendar

September 1

Elementary Back-to-School
Night/Title I Parent Meeting
(6:30 p.m.)

September 7

- No School - Labor Day

September 11

- Curriculum/School Improvement
Workshop for Staff (K-6: No
School, 7-12: 11:35 a.m. dismissal)

September 14

- School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

September 25

- Homecoming



www.scs-ne.org
(402)439-2233

Welcome back to another exciting year at the Stanton
Community Schools!

Questions??? Please Call!
Central Office – 439-2233
High School Office – 439-2250
Elementary Office – 439-2639

The Principal's Perspective

By Chris Stogdill

Getting Together to Support Our Children

It has been said that a parent is a person with a bulging wallet-bulging with photographs of his or her child. In fact, I heard an old joke that describes parents as people who watch a five-year old carve his initials into their brand new mahogany coffee table with a screwdriver and remark, "Isn't that wonderful! He can write his own name!" As that anecdote may drive home, there is quite a difference between support and indulgence. What's more, most parents I know will laugh at that story because they have experienced the natural desire to indulge their children in all sorts of things and have had to temper that feeling with a higher law, if you will, of support-of under girding their children with values and a code for living that will help to carry them through their lives.

Indulgence is easy; support often requires tears and resolve and sleepless nights. Indulgence says, "Go ahead! Do what you want!" Support states, "This is the way; go ahead and try: I'm here to help if you fall."

Indulgence is easy; support requires effort. We have recently started school and once again it is time to support our children in activities and inquire how to help them adjust to their routines for another successful year. It will not always be easy, yet with love comes the responsibility to supply that effort for our children. I would like to thank you for the depth of commitment presented by the turnout at orientations. Let us join together in actively supporting our children in all future endeavors so that we may present a bright and glowing future to them all.

National Honor Society Selection Coming!

(Chilcoat) The school year is only just getting started, but it is already time to start the process for National Honor Society selection. It is a requirement of the national organization that the selection procedure be published each year. Selection to the society strictly follows the constitution of the National Honor Society. To be eligible for membership consideration, students in grades 10, 11, and 12 must have a grade point average of 90% or above. Additionally, potential members must meet high standards of leadership, service, and character. Leadership is based on the student's participation in community or school activities, or election to an office. To meet the service requirement, the student must have been active in projects for the school and

community. Character is measured in terms of integrity, behavior, ethics, and cooperation with both students and faculty.

An information sheet and explanation letter will be mailed to all academically eligible students. This form will need to be filled out, signed by the appropriate adults and returned by the deadline stated in the letter in order for each student to be considered for selection. The purpose of the information sheet is to help the faculty committee know what activities the students are involved with. There will also be an informational meeting for all students interested in learning more about the society.

The names of all academically eligible students are given to the high school staff. Teachers are asked to

Messages from Mrs. McKeon

By Mary McKeon

Off and Running...

We are off to a great start and everyone is to be congratulated for the smooth transition back to school. Thank you!

For me, one important thing is very different. My son, Logan, will not be at the elementary building. He has graduated to the middle school. For five years I have had the wonderful privilege of seeing him learn, grow, and succeed at Stanton Elementary. I have to admit, I will miss that "daily dose" of a hug, smile, wave, or thumbs up that I received from him. But he is excited about the new challenge that awaits him - new teachers, new building, new lockers, and BAND! Trumpet sounds are already ringing through the house! He will love it and yes, I'll be fine.

Now, I'll get on to some elementary news. I invite all parents of Stanton Elementary students to support our school by participating in our Parent-Teacher Support Group. The group meets the first Monday of each month at 6:30pm at the

elementary school. Everyone is welcome!

I would also like to remind parents to please be patient and courteous while driving in our parking lot. There are many cars in the parking lot right before school starts and at the end of the school day. In order to avoid traffic jams in the morning, please park in the parking lot if you plan to come into the building, even if only for a few minutes. This is also necessary if you plan to walk your children into the building. If we work together, then things will work smoothly for all!

I would also like to encourage you to consider offering your volunteer services to assist our students. With the support of volunteers, the opportunity to meet the individual needs of each child is greatly increased. I invite you to share your time, knowledge, and abilities with our students. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the elementary office.

Speaker for Students Coming to SHS

(Marshall) On September 15, 2009, Gina Clyde, a guest speaker from Bright Horizons will be at Stanton High School to give presentations to students in 9th through 12th grade. These presentations will meet the requirements for LB63 that states each school district shall provide dating violence information to students and staff. Bright Horizons will be presenting information on healthy relationships, teen dating violence, warning signs, boundaries, and resources available. Information will be given to each student to bring home, including warning signs for parents. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Marshall.

rate these students in each of the categories mentioned above. These evaluations, along with the information sheets filled out by the students, are then taken into consideration by a faculty council. This council, chosen by the principal, consists of five staff members in addition to the society adviser, who is a nonvoting member. The council then has the responsibility to select those who will become new members of the society.

Students selected to become new members will be notified at an informal tapping ceremony and inducted into the National Honor Society at a formal candlelight ceremony on a date later in the fall.

FFA News - Mrs. Schwartz, FFA Advisor

The Stanton FFA Chapter had a very productive summer this year. Starting in June, members volunteered their time to work at the concession stand for the Stanton FFA Alumni Progress shows. We had several members work the concession stand both Saturday and Sunday earning funds for the chapter. Some members, besides working the concession stand, also showed their cattle, sheep, or rabbits for the progress show. The progress show turned out to be a great success, and everyone looks forward to a great turn out next year.

In June and July, many members were visited at their farms/homes by me. I go on these SAE (Supervised Ag. Experiences) visits to see what type of agriculture "project" or job the member has and also to ask them about the project or job. I take pictures of the member working so they can put those pictures in a record book. FFA members keep records on their projects or jobs and can earn rewards at the district, state, or national level based on their ability to keep good detailed records of their projects. Most members have livestock as their projects, but they can have other types of projects such as working at a grocery store, feed store, nursing home, or mowing lawns or growing vegetables.

In July, the members had a another day to work, as many came and helped out at the Stanton FFA Alumni's concession stand on the 4th of July. Although it was a bit rainy out, it was nice to see the kids turn up and work at the stand.

The highlight of the summer came when the FFA Chapter Officers and I took a trip to the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo. This gave the officers a chance to work together as a team as they had to complete a scavenger hunt. The officers had to stay together at all times and could not ask zoo personal to help them out. It was a great day and the officers worked very well together!

The summer finally came to an end with the county fair. The FFA had several members showing livestock and other animals. Members showing FFA livestock were Bethany Reese - sheep, swine, poultry; Richard Domogalla - sheep and beef; Melissa Drott - beef; Kyley Reese - sheep, swine, rabbit, and poultry; Olivia Domogalla - sheep, beef, rabbit, and dog; Kelcey Huntley - sheep, goat, swine, rabbit, and poultry; Sydney Schellpeper - beef; Rachel Shafer - beef and horse; Dexter Paterson - horse; and Kody Reese - sheep, swine, and poultry. All of these members also showed their livestock in the 4-H divisions. Other FFA members that participated in the 4-H livestock shows at the fair included Michael McCarthy, Eric McCarthy and Jade Hetzler. Many of these members will be showing their sheep and beef at the Nebraska State Fair in Lincoln on September 4th through 7th.

During the county fair, the FFA alumni also opens their popcorn stand. This year a total of 23 different FFA members (and a few non members -thanks, you know who you are!!!) came to work a shift or two or three for the alumni! First, I would like to thank the FFA alumni for providing the FFA Chapter with money raised by the popcorn stand for us to use for State Convention. Second, I would like to thank all the FFA members who came in to work! And finally, thanks to everyone in the community who bought food/drink from the stand; without your support, many of the activities the FFA Chapter does throughout the year would not be possible!!

I look forward to having a great year with the FFA Chapter and the great bunch of members I will have the opportunity to work with! Currently our chapter has 30 members, and I would like to gain a few more after the school year begins. Some of our chapter goals for the year are to increase the number of active members we have, do more community service activities, and sell a lot of fruit in November!

Counselor's Corner

By Kendra Marshall

It's College Fair season!

During September and October, EducationQuest will sponsor six College Fairs featuring representatives from as many as 200 colleges. 10th, 11th, and 12th graders, mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

- **Norfolk Area College Fair**, Sun., Sept. 27, 1:00-3:00 p.m. - Northeast Community College
- **Grand Island Area College Fair**, Sun., Sept. 20, 1:00-3:30 p.m. - Heartland Event Center
- **Tri-State College Fair**, Sun., Oct. 4, 1:00-3:30 p.m. - Marina Center, South Sioux City
- **Lincoln Area College Fair**, Sunday, October 18 1:00-3:30 p.m. - Southeast Community College
- **Omaha Area College Fair**, Sunday, October 25, 1:00-4:00 p.m. - University of Nebraska-Omaha

Follow these tips to make the most of the College Fairs:

1. **See the College Fair article** at www.educationquest.org for a list of schools slated to attend. You'll find a list of questions to ask in the College Selection section. Arrive at the College Fair early so you have time to visit your top colleges.
2. **Prepare pre-printed labels** with your name and address to stick on information cards at college booths where you want additional information.
3. **Attend the financial aid session at the College Fair** to learn about types of aid and how to apply.

John Baylor Test Prep

will be offered again this year at Stanton High School. The cost will be \$25. Contact Mrs. Marshall for more information.

Important Dates:

ACT Test Date.....	Registration Deadline
October 24.....	September 18 (preferred date for seniors)
December 12.....	November 6
February 6.....	January 5
April 10.....	March 5 (preferred date for juniors)
June 12.....	May 7

Explore Northeast

(Northeast Community College) is a day designed to give a broad range of information about Northeast Community College. You will have an opportunity to experience Northeast with a group of prospective students.

Sept. 16, Oct. 13, Nov. 12

The Explore Northeast Day will include

- An overview of NECC
- A campus tour
- A visit with a faculty member
- Lunch (free)
- Availability of ASSET/COMPASS testing

See Mrs. Marshall about additional college tour information.

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