

The Administrator

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Michael J. Sieh

Do We Need to Always Say "YES"?

Do you believe that parents should always say "yes" to their children? Or should we use the phrase, "What did your mom say?" Using this phrase usually benefits the child for he/she will use his/her perceptions of what mom said rather than what she may have actually meant.

Either way, I believe that your answer to this question depends upon your priorities. With that said, I plan to approach this article from the aspect that your children's education is the most important priority.

Research indicates that parents' involvement in their children's education has a vast effect upon their academic results. In fact, Governor Heumann has challenged school districts across Nebraska in promoting parental involvement. However, to make an impact, we have to reach ALL parents, and ALL parents have to feel comfortable with helping or seeking help from others.

What spurred this conversation was students coming to school unprepared to perform academically. I see parents willing to make their child competitive in athletics by doing extra, but I see few parents willing to go above and beyond for their student academically. Questions I have for you are, "Have you established a homework policy at home?", "Do you abide by

this policy and say no to your child when homework is not complete?", "Do you sit and do homework with your child?", and "Do you seek help from others when needed?" These are just a few questions, but the list could go on. The important message to receive is that homework not only is important in a student's academic success, but also is a good time for parents to work with their children to determine what areas need more study.

I recently received an article by John Rosemond, a reporter for the Omaha World-Herald, titled *Tips for Parents on School Success*. I thought I would share his 5 tips with you as well. Before I do, I must prelude his tips by indicating the "best students" refer to those who come to school prepared to pay attention, accept assignments and do their best, whatever

their best may be. Here are his tips.

1. Make it clear to your child that disobedience is not an option. Teachers consistently report that the best students are almost always among the most well behaved. Not even the best teacher can discipline a child who comes from home already disrespectful of adult authority. Make the rules of proper behavior clear to your child, and when rules are broken, enforce with a firm, even hand. New research finds that a child's level of self-control is positively associated with school achievement.

2. Assign your child a fair share of day-to-day house work. Again, teachers tell me that the best students are usually those who have daily chores at home. It makes sense, doesn't it, that a child who comes to school already

Please see **TIPS**, page 3

Stanton Schools Online

(Sieh) During the summer months, the Stanton Schools have upgraded the software that tracks our students. This upgrade has affected our online school. The student ID number is now a six digit number as opposed to a five digit number. In migrating to a six digit number, the new number becomes a one plus the old five digit number. For example, if your number was 98765, your new number would be 198765.

A student's PIN number is still the same. However, the three digit PIN number can be changed to any three digit number and the same PIN number can be assigned to siblings so that it can be easily remembered. Please call the school if you have any additional questions.

Volume VII, Issue 3

September 28, 2009

Reporters

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

Events Calendar

October 6

- 2:40 p.m. dismissal
- Parent/Teacher Conferences (4:30 - 7:30 p.m.)

October 8

- 2:40 p.m. dismissal
- Parent/Teacher Conferences (4:30 - 7:30 p.m.)

October 12

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

October 16

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

October 29

- End of 1st Quarter

October 30

- Teacher In-service for Grades (11:35 a.m. dismissal)



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

Passing it down

Learning how to cook can hold hidden gifts. My daughters have started taking an interest in helping cook the family meals. This time in their lives leads me to reflect on my mother who shared her chicken noodle recipe with my wife when Cindy and I were still dating. Mom's chicken noodle soup was legendary. It was a recipe that wasn't written down, but instead passed on through hands-on experience and teaching of the hidden secrets. The recipe involved using egg shells to measure out the milk and putting enough flour in the mix to create the magic. My mother spoiled me with her many "made from scratch dishes". Now, I am partial to real noodles, not the store bought variety. My wife, who was my high school sweetheart, learned many of these dishes directly from my mother. They would often be found cooking together in the kitchen. It was not only a time to share recipes, but also a time to get acquainted and discuss interests and hobbies. Cindy admits that she always thinks of my mother when she makes her noodles and finds comfort in the memories they shared. Many ailments and illnesses in our home have been cured with that chicken noodle soup recipe.

Now my daughters are starting to spend time in the kitchen learning how to measure ingredients, turn on the stove, and use a timer. Each of the girls has spent time with Cindy learning how to make those magic noodles, among other things. They enjoy cooking with both me and their mom. Each child is developing preferences for certain things. Abby likes to cook and mix, and Hannah likes to decorate. This time has been

a blessing for me; it allows me to catch up on happenings in their lives and pass down some family traditions and recipes.

There are other talents and interests that are passed down in our home. My sister Diane taught Cindy how to crochet just before we moved to Nebraska. After Diane passed away, Cindy inherited all of her yarn and hooks. She has shared the love of crochet with many people over the years, including our daughters. This summer we planted our first garden in Stanton. It was a family experience that resulted in lots of weeding, vegetables and blue potatoes. It was fun to watch the girls as they began to harvest and share the things they grew themselves. Cindy and I fondly recall the memory of living in Osmond, and Abby learning the colors red and green as she picked strawberries and cucumbers. She would wait patiently at the water hydrant for someone to wash her treats before she could eat them. Also, Cindy was my high school's photo journalist for the paper and annual. This love of taking pictures and capturing the moment has sparked an interest in both girls. This year, Abby and Hannah entered photos in the county fair. The lessons they learned from taking a picture, framing it, and entering it into a contest were valuable and lasting.

The time we spend with our children may seem short and unimportant, but the memories we create and the moments we share are everlasting. No matter how busy our schedules get, we try to remember to share those talents and interests with each other.

Messages from Mrs. McKeon

By Mary McKeon

Connect With Character

I'd like to tell you a little bit about the program that I will be using in guidance this year. As you all know, I teach guidance in the kindergarten through fourth grade classrooms. I love coming into the classrooms and teaching the boys and girls. This year I will be using a program called "Connect with Character". It encourages construction of students' knowledge of the following pillars that are the core of "Character Counts".

1. Trustworthiness: be honest and loyal
2. Respect: Treat others with respect
3. Responsibility: Do what you are suppose to do. Keep trying and always do your best.
4. Fairness: Play by the rules. Take turns and share.

5. Caring: Be kind. Be compassionate.
6. Citizenship: Do your share to make your school and community better.

Students will discuss and explore the six pillars of character through discussion and fun activities. We encourage you to follow the TEAM strategy at home. It is the same one we will employ at school.

- **Teach** children that their character counts.
- **Enforce** the Six Pillars of Character.
- **Advocate** character
- **Model** good behavior

Together we can form a partnership to help students strengthen their abilities as learners.

Seasonal and H1N1 Flu

What is the flu?

The flu is an infection of the nose, throat and lungs caused by the influenza virus. Flu viruses cause illness, hospital stays and deaths in the United States every year.

What is the H1N1 flu?

H1N1 flu is a new and different flu virus that is spreading worldwide among people. This new virus was called "swine flu" at first.

How does flu spread?

Both H1N1 and season flu are spread mostly from person to person through the coughs and sneezes of people who are sick with the flu. People also may get sick by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose

What are the symptoms of the flu?

For both the seasonal flu and H1N1 the symptoms usually start suddenly and may include fever (temperature >100F), cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue. Some people also may have vomiting and/or diarrhea.

If Your Child IS Sick

If your child is 5 years or older and otherwise healthy and gets flu-like symptoms, including a fever and/or a cough, consult your doctor as needed (as you would with any illness) and make sure your child gets plenty of rest and drinks enough fluids

If your child is younger than 5, or of any age and has a medical condition like asthma, diabetes, a neurological problem or has or may have a suppressed immune system and develops flu-like symptoms, including a fever and/or cough, call your doctor or get medical attention. This is because younger children and children who have chronic medical conditions (like asthma or diabetes) may be at higher risk of serious complications from influenza infection including the new H1N1. Talk to your doctor early if you are worried about your child's illness.

Keep Your Child At Home If They Are Sick

Children should stay home from school for at least 24 hours after there is no longer a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine). A fever is defined as 100F.

Keeping sick students at home means that they keep their viruses to themselves rather than sharing them with others.



Protect your child

- Get a seasonal flu vaccine for yourself and your child. A separate H1N1 vaccine is being developed and should also be obtained as soon as available.
- Take everyday steps to prevent the spread of all flu viruses:
 - Cough or sneeze into your elbow
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. If soap and water are not available, alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
 - Try to keep your child from having close contact (about 6 ft) with sick people including anyone in the household who is sick
 - Keep surfaces like bedside tables, surfaces in the bathroom, kitchen counters and toys for children clean by wiping them down with a household disinfectant according to directions on the product label
 - Throw away tissues and other disposable items

Mustangs



Stanton FFA News

(Schwartz) A new year is off and running and the Stanton FFA Chapter is in full swing with a busy new year! This year we have a lot of new members coming in, which I am very excited about! Currently, the chapter has 34 members, grades 9-12, and hopefully, we can convince a few more to join before too long! We had seven members show beef and sheep at the state fair over Labor Day weekend. Those included Richard Domogalla, Bethany Reese, Olivia Domogalla, Sydney Schellpeper, Kyley Reese, Rachel Shafer, and Kody Reese. Please congratulate these members on a job well done showing their livestock and also representing our school and community with class!

We had our first "official" meeting of the year on Wednesday, September 9th. Discussion included

FFA T-shirts and FFA Jackets can be ordered. T-shirts are \$12.00 or \$14.00 if members want their name on it. Order forms can be picked up in my room, and they are due September 30th. FFA Jackets can also be ordered by the member and these are \$50.00.

The Chapter dues were set at \$20.00 with that money helping to pay our Chapters' District, State and National Dues. Members must have those dues in to Treasurer, Sydney Schellpeper, or to me by September 30th. Discussion was also held about members attending IMPACT, which is a leadership workshop, presented by the Nebraska State FFA officers at NECC. IMPACT is on October 6th from 9:00am - 1:30pm. Also, district land judging is coming up on October 7th. This year, Leigh will be hosting the contest. Members can sign up to participate for both of these activities if their Chapter dues are paid before September 30th. Finally, we discussed getting ready for our District Speaking Contests held at the end of November. These "LSE" contests will have public speakers, agricultural demonstrators, and Parliamentary Procedure teams competing. Our chapter has already started Sr. Parliamentary Procedure practices in the morning before school starts - practice makes perfect, you know!!

accustomed to accepting adult assignments will have fewer problems accepting assignments from teachers? The more responsible a child is within his or her family, the more responsibility the child will demonstrate at school.

3. Limit electronic entertainment to non-school days only, and even then allow no more than five total hours per week. The research is increasingly unequivocal: screen time of any sort decreases attention span. Learning from a teacher requires being ready to ask and answer questions, memorizing, conducting independent inquiry transferring what you've learned to paper, listening to the teachers' feedback concerning your work and correcting your mistakes. As for television alone, a researcher once found that truly gifted children tended to watch no more than five hours of television a week. The national average is 25 hours per week per child, which is simply to say if you want your child to be average, let him watch a lot of television.

4. Be always interested in what and how your child is doing in school, but take care not to do

his work for him. There is a difference between interest and involvement. The interested parent says to the child, in effect, "I am concerned about your education, but it is ultimately your responsibility." The involved parent says, "Your education is my responsibility." Unfortunately, too many well-intentioned parents have unwittingly accepted/appropriated responsibility for their children's school work. The result of this parental benevolence is a child who has difficulty taking the proverbial bull by the horn.

5. If and when your child's teacher reports a problem, give the teacher -not your child!- the benefit of the doubt. As a rule, teachers are more committed to bettering the welfare of children than any other class of professional. When a teacher says your child has a problem, academic or behavioral, it is with your child's best interest in mind. Curb the tendency to become defensive and listen with an open mind and an open heart. You may learn something that will help you become a better parent.

TIPS

-----Continued from Page 1-----

To: Parents and Guardians of School Students
From: Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department
Subject: School response when dealing with sick children
Date: September 9, 2009

As we approach the influenza season once again, Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department would like to take a moment to update you on some current recommendations that have been put forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This year, because of the anticipated combination of seasonal flu and H1N1 flu, CDC has released new guidelines to help decrease the spread of flu among students and school staff during the 2009-2010 school year.

Differences that you will notice in regards to dealing with sick students at school:

- **Separating ill students from well people.**
Students who appear to have flu-like illness will be sent to a room separate from others until they can be sent home. They will be required to wear a surgical mask while they are waiting to be picked up from school.
- **Sick students will be required to stay home.**
Students who appear to have an influenza-like illness at arrival or become ill during the day will be promptly separated from other students and staff and sent home.
- **Children can safely return to school after being ill if they have a fever of less than 100°F without the use of fever reducing medications for at least 24 hours.**

It is extremely important that we all do our parts in decreasing the spread of illness this flu season. We appreciate your cooperation and interest in keeping our students and faculty healthy.

Counselor's Corner

By Kendra Marshall

Assessing our Students!

The Guidance Department will be conducting many tests for high school students during the month of October and November.

All **eighth grade** students will take the Caps/Cops/Copes at the beginning of November. The Caps/Cops/Copes system measures abilities, interests, and values through a series of tests and inventories. Through the use of these instruments, students will have a better understanding of how their abilities, interests, and values relate to occupations and career paths.

Every **sophomore** student will take the PLAN on October 28th. The PLAN test is a "pre-ACT" test that will help predict success on the ACT Assessment. It also focuses attention on career preparation and improving academic achievement.

Juniors who want to take the PSAT will do so on October

14th. The PSAT gives students a chance to enter the National Merit Scholarship Corporation scholarship programs. It also serves as a practice for the SAT. All **Junior** students will take the ASVAB on October 22nd. The ASVAB is designed to help students learn more about themselves and the world of work, to identify and explore potentially satisfying occupations, and develop an effective strategy to realize their goals.

Seniors and Juniors taking the ACT on October 24th may be interested in the following preparation workshop. Northeast Community College will be holding a four-hour ACT preparation workshop which will provide information on general test-taking skills and hints, techniques for the English test, necessary math formulas and content on the math section, how to take the ACT reading test,

science reasoning skills, and sample test questions. The workshop will be held on Saturday, October 17th from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm and the cost is \$25. For registration information contact the guidance office.

Seniors should be applying for admission to the colleges of their choice, and starting the scholarship process. Listed below are some scholarship tips.
1. Check with your counselor weekly for any new scholarships.

2. Use websites to conduct scholarship searches:

- www.educationquest.com
(ScholarshipQuest)
- www.fastweb.com
- www.scholarships.com
- www.scholarshipmonkey.com

3. Apply for 30 - 40 scholarships. Avoid scams (stay away from scholarships that say things like "The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back, We need a credit card to hold your scholarship, or We'll do all the work").

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