

# The Administrator

## From the Superintendent's Desk

By Michael J. Sieh

### Witnessing GOOD Things!

Sometimes you witness good things! Such as an eighth grade boy in basketball telling a seventh grade boy to perform the drill correctly. Such as a student questioning why they have teachers as friends because teachers know the scene behind the scene. Such as high school students taking time with a student when they only know his first name but understand he needs the exact attention. Everyday I witness these deeds but often take them for granted. Today is *not* such a day.

Following our wonderful C2-3 District One-Act Play Championship, I listened as our director told the cast and crew three simple things. First, congratulations to the cast and crew because you deserve it. In order to appreciate this simple idea, you must understand the countless hours that a director puts in trying to squeeze play practices between practices of other activities. The director spends time working with all the lights and sounds prior to the cast and crew arriving. The director goes and measures the stage and entrances at the host site to ensure that the props will fit (three inches had to be trimmed). Separate practices are scheduled for chorus, main characters, and stage crews. Yet, the director gives credit where credit is due.

Second, the students were told to concentrate on their grades by focusing on maintaining their eligibility. We just came off a huge district win where the focus could have been centered on the activity. But the director circled the wagons and placed a heavy focus on academics. He reminded the students that it is their responsibility to maintain their eligibility.

And finally, the director's last comment was to remind the students of the importance of showing up the next day-*on time*-for school. The time was

about 10:30 p.m. and everyone was tired. They could have made excuses for not coming so early the next morning. But *NO*, the cast and crew were all told to be at school.

And so, we now have the story. We all witness good things. We all take good things for granted sometimes. But sometimes good things motivate us. And if this motivates us to motivate others, then we will never know the true potential that good deeds could have on others. Therefore, recognize as many good deeds as possible.

### 2009-2010 Yearbooks On Sale

(Waddington) The 2009-2010 yearbooks are on sale now. The price is \$38.00 before Christmas and \$43.00 after Christmas. We also have a few of the 2008-2009 yearbooks available to buy.

### ATTENTION SENIOR PARENTS!

The yearbook staff still needs baby pictures of the seniors for the graduation slide show. If you have not turned one in yet, please do so.

The baby ads that are put in the back of the yearbook are \$20.00. We can use the same picture used for the slide show or you can bring a different one. Included with the baby picture is a short message written by you. The message needs to be fifty words or less in order to fit the space. All baby pictures will be scanned and returned.

Senior pictures are needed as soon as possible. You may bring in the proof as long as it is not stamped, and we can scan it for the yearbook. We do not need to keep the picture.

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## Reporters

Mr. Sieh..... Superintendent  
Mr. Stogdill ..... H.S. Principal  
Mrs. McKeon..... Elementary Principal  
Mrs. Marshall..... Guidance  
Mrs. Lammers..... 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Advisor  
Mrs. Waddington..... Yearbook

## Events Calendar

### January 4

- School Reconvenes

### January 8

- Teacher Inservice (Professional Speaker) - No School

### January 11

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

### January 13

- Second Quarter Ends

### January 15

- Teacher Inservice (Grades) - No School



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Visit [www.scs-ne.org](http://www.scs-ne.org) to sign up for cell phone text school closing announcements or listen to the RADIO.

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

## The Principal's Perspective

By Chris Stogdill

### What Is Sportsmanship?

Extra-curricular activities are an integral part of a student's education. Good sportsmanship and good conduct go hand and hand with activities. It is important to expect sportsmanlike behavior at all times-whether our team is winning or losing or whether you believe the officials' calls are going our way. We need to exhibit modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat. But sportsmanship isn't just reserved for the people on the field. Cheerleaders, fans, and parents also need to be aware of how they behave during competition. Sportsmanship is a style and an attitude, and it can have a positive influence on everyone around you. Would your student be proud of your actions or words? What images of Stanton do we want others to associate with us?

Some people define good sportsmanship as the "golden rule" of sports - in other words, treating the people you play with and against as you'd like to be treated yourself. You demonstrate good sportsmanship when you show respect for yourself, your teammates, and your opponents, for the coaches on both sides, and for the referees, judges, and other officials.

Everyone feels great when they win, but it can be just as hard to be a good sport when you've won a game as when you've lost one. Good sportsmanship takes maturity and courage - when you work really hard at a sport, it's not easy to admit you made a bad play or that someone has more skills than you. In competition - as in life - you may not always win, but you can learn something from losing, too.

It's pretty tough to lose, so it definitely doesn't help matters if someone continues taunting you or your team after the competition is over. Sometimes it's hard to swallow your pride and walk on. But there's always the next match. When you do lose - and it will happen - don't take it out on your opponent, don't blame the officials, or blame your team. Take it in stride. When you lose, lose with class. Being proud of how you performed, or at least being aware of things you need to improve for next time, is key. Also, it means accepting the game's outcome without complaint and without excuses, even if you sometimes might suspect the referees made some questionable calls. Remember there are four perspectives in a game-fans, players, coaches and officials. Everyone views each action differently.

When you win, the trick is to be a gracious and generous winner. Good sportsmanship means acknowledging victories without humiliating opponents, being quietly proud of success, and letting victories speak for themselves. Even if you win by a landslide, good sportsmanship means still finding ways to compliment your opponents.

Most people won't go on to play professional sports, and only a few will win scholarships to play at college. But many forget to have a good time during the years they do play because they're so focused on winning. And, unfortunately, parents and coaches sometimes put too much pressure on athletes, emphasizing winning at all costs. So although it's great to be a

Please see **SPORTSMANSHIP**,  
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## Messages from Mrs. McKeon

By Mary McKeon

### Lifetime Activity

As a child, I grew up in Silver Creek, Nebraska a small town located on Highway 30. Our family was quite large as there were seven children. My dad ran the grocery store in Silver Creek and my mom stayed at home with the kids. My grandfather was the dentist. His office was right above the store. My grandmother was a business woman herself. She ran the store before my dad took over. My dad always told us to do our best in school, no matter what, as he did not have the opportunity to finish college. He did go to the University of Nebraska to play football. He played on the freshman team until he had to go overseas to serve in the military. I remember my mom always taking us to the library. We would look forward to getting different books to read. My favorite book was "Part-Time Dog." I would read it over and over. This leads me into reading: a family activity.

Family involvement is essential to any child's success as a reader. Research has shown that by talking, singing, and reading to children, parents are turning on brain cells that are critical for a healthy child. Parents can build reading skills by interacting with their children. By encouraging babies and young children to communicate, parents are laying the foundation for later reading success.

Parents and other family members need to be involved in children's reading throughout their school years. Schools recognize the importance of parent involvement in students' academic progress.

Below are a few simple things that parents can do to create a healthy reading environment. So ring in the new year with reading fun!

Make Reading Materials Available. To create a reading environment, start with a good supply of reading materials - newspapers, magazines, books, or catalogs. It doesn't matter if they are owned or borrowed, new or used. What is important is that reading materials are a natural part of your home and everyday life. Think about setting aside a spot in your home for a family library. You don't need much space; a corner or a room with a bookshelf will do.

Be Reading Role Models. As much as they may deny it, most children want to be like their parents. Their habits start to form at the earliest ages, often mimicking older members of the family. If they see you reading, they will more likely become avid readers themselves. If children see parents visiting libraries and checking out books, giving and receiving books as gifts, and borrowing and loaning books to friends, they will know their parents place a high value on reading.

Read Aloud to Children. Reading to children, even for a few minutes each day, prepares them to read and encourages a positive attitude toward reading. Children who are read to at home learn to read more easily, have a higher vocabulary, and are more likely to develop a love for reading. So enjoy reading together and make it a life time activity.

# Happy New Years!

## Holiday Cheer from 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Advisory

(Lammers) This year the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Advisory participated in the American Red Cross and Pitney Bowes, Inc. Holiday Mail for Heroes program. This program is an opportunity to share joy and thanks with our service members throughout the United States by way of a greeting card.

Each 7<sup>th</sup> grader was asked to write a note of thanks in a greeting card. They then signed the cards. The cards are sent

to Capitol Heights, Maryland where they will be screened and distributed to participating Red Cross Chapters nationwide. Once the cards arrive, they will be reviewed by volunteers and then distributed to service members, their families and veterans in communities across America.

Stanton 7<sup>th</sup> graders are grateful to all service members and veterans. They are proud to have participated in this holiday program.

### School Closing Notifications

(Sieh) We have already had a couple of weather announcements. I was hoping to have another perfect year with no weather related schedule changes. However, I did learn something new. Our students can spread the word faster than we adults can via text messaging.

Therefore, I have concluded that we (ADULTS) need to jump on their train and use text messaging as well to spread the word quickly. Please log onto the school's website, click on the "Signup for Alerts" banner in the top center of the page and register your email and/or mobile phone to start receiving school announcements instantly. This website is also listed monthly on the front page of the newsletter.

Once you register your phone and/or email, you will be sent a validation code to your email, phone or both. You will need to log onto the website they give you in their message and complete the registration process. Please be advised that text messages are not free. If you have a texting plan already, you will see no extra charges; however, for those that might not have a texting plan for their cell phone, charges will be applied to your next cell phone bill.

## **Do You Know How to Apply Effective Consequences?**

(Marshall) Disciplining your child involves establishing consequences for broken rules. Are your consequences effective and appropriate? Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below and find out:

1. **Do you use natural consequences** when possible? Example: Your child leaves her shoes outside, again. It rains and they are ruined. She must earn the money to buy new ones herself.
2. **Do you use logical consequences** when natural consequences don't apply? Example: Your child breaks

curfew on Friday night. She must stay in the next night.

3. **Do you make consequences meaningful?** Consequences should involve something your child cares about.

4. **Do you stay in the present** when setting consequences? Don't drag up past mistakes or predict mistakes your child will make in the future.

**How well are you doing?** Mostly *yes* answers mean you are setting suitable consequences. For *no* answers, try those ideas. (Taken from *Parents Still make the Difference!*, Middle School, January 2010)

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

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champion, it's even better to have enjoyed the process of trying to reach the top. It's best to play fair while having fun.

Good sportsmanship occurs when teammates, opponents, coaches, and officials treat each other with respect. Kids learn the basics of sportsmanship from the adults in their lives, especially their parents and their coaches. Kids who see adults behaving in a sportsmanlike way gradually come to understand that the real winners in sports are those who know how to persevere and to behave with dignity — whether they win or lose a game.

Parents can help their kids understand that good sportsmanship includes both small gestures and heroic efforts. It starts with something as simple as shaking hands with opponents before a game and includes acknowledging good plays made by others and accepting bad calls gracefully. Displaying good sportsmanship isn't always easy: It can be tough to congratulate the opposing team after losing a close or important game. But the kids who learn how to do it will benefit in many ways.

Kids who bully or taunt others on the playing field aren't likely to change their behavior when in the classroom or in social situations. In the same way, a child who practices good sportsmanship is likely to

carry the respect and appreciation of other people into every other aspect of life.

Learning good sportsmanship means finding that the positive attitude learned on the field carries over into other areas of life. At school, for example, you're able to appreciate the contributions made by classmates and know how to work as part of a team to complete a project. You may enjoy more success at work as well, because a big part of learning good sportsmanship is learning to be respectful of others, including customers and coworkers.

A committed effort is being made by the Nebraska School Activities Association and schools across Nebraska to help shape sportsmanship guidelines. Together, we can promote a positive learning experience for our student-athletes that is played in an atmosphere where self, opponents, coaches, and officials are respected and treated properly. Each spectator, coach, and student-athlete can make a difference. I would challenge our fans, students, participants, and coaches to make sportsmanship a priority. Good sports are winners, regardless of the outcome of the contest. Be proud of our athletes and their accomplishments and forgive them when their efforts come up short. Remember, keep it in perspective; it truly is only a game.

# **Congratulations**

to our One-Act Team and coaches who finished the season undefeated and

**Class C2 State Champions!**

By Kendra Marshall

## Quiz Bowl Teams Compete

Second semester is almost over! **Changes in class schedules** need to be completed by January 6<sup>th</sup>. Please talk with your child about any changes that he/she is planning on making and to make sure your child is on track for graduation.

**The second quarter Honor Roll Breakfast** is scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup>. In order to be invited, students must be on the All "A" Honor Roll or the regular Honor Roll. To be on the All "A" Honor Roll, a student must have an A (94% or above) in every class. To be named to the regular Honor Roll, a student must have at least a 94% GPA for the quarter.

**Seniors** that are college-bound need to complete and submit the FAFSA. Colleges will use your FAFSA results to determine how much they will award in financial aid. The FAFSA should be completed as soon as possible after January 1<sup>st</sup>, and after taxes are completed. The quickest way to

do this is online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

By this time **seniors** should have applied to at least two colleges. Many college scholarship deadlines have passed or are approaching quickly.

**Seniors** should be continuing to apply for scholarships. See our school website for a list of current scholarships!

**Juniors** are encouraged to take the ACT during second semester. Advantages to taking the ACT your junior year are

- You've probably taken the courses that prepare you for the test - that is, if you are taking courses that prepare you for college.
- You'll have your test scores and other information in time to plan for your senior year. For example, you may decide to take an additional class in a subject in which your test score was low.
- Colleges will know of your

interests and have your scores in time to contact you during the summer before your senior year. Many colleges send students information about admission, scholarships, and special programs at this time.

- You'll have plenty of time to retake the test before applying to college if you feel your scores don't accurately reflect your ability. ACT research shows of the students who took the ACT a second time, 55 percent earned a higher composite score, 23 percent earned a lower score, and 22 percent stayed the same. Registration packets are available in the guidance office or students can apply online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).

**Juniors who took the PSAT** have been given their results. Parents are encouraged to review these results with their child using the booklet "Understanding PSAT/NMSQT Scores".

**8<sup>th</sup> graders** were recently assisted with interpreting the results of their Caps/Cops/Copes Inventories. The Caps/Cops/Copes system measures abilities, interests and values through a series of tests and inventories. These instruments give students a better understanding of how their abilities, interests and values relate to occupations and career paths. I encourage parents to review the results with their child using the career cluster booklet provided.

<u>ACT Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
February 6, 2010.....	January 5, 2010
*April 10, 2010.....	March 5, 2010
June 12, 2010.....	May 7, 2010
*preferred date for juniors	

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