

# HARNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Rebecca Eckhardt, PRINCIPAL  
1001 Arbor Drive  
South Sioux City, NE 68776  
494-1446

## DATES TO REMEMBER

<b>March 4, 5</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL - Winter/Spring Break</b>
<b>March 12</b>	<b>End 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter</b>
<b>March 15</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL - Conferences</b>
<b>March 16</b>	<b>Regular School Hours - Evening Conferences</b>
<b>March 19</b>	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>March 22</b>	<b>Elementary Skating Party 6:30 PM</b>
<b>March 26</b>	<b>NO KINDERGARTEN CLASSES</b>
	<b>2010-2011 Kindergarten Visitation/Parent Meeting</b>
	*****

## Dear Harney Parents,

Finally, I think we can see the "light at the end of the tunnel" with the approach of the spring season. It has certainly been a long, cold, and rough winter. We are just about ready to start the exciting time of year when the children can start to go outside more and see what the season is all about. The school year is now more than half over and all of us look forward to this time of year.

Just as a reminder, we are still concerned with the attendance numbers of your children. I have said this many times in this newsletter that success in school, and ultimately success in life, directly correlates to consistent school attendance. The reminder is repeated so often in this newsletter because the fact of the matter never changes.

The South Sioux City Community School District has met with the Dakota County Attorney's Office throughout the year to combine efforts to eliminate school truancy. The prosecuting attorneys of your county are just as concerned with the subject as the school district is. With that, they will enforce any and all laws relating to school attendance. Enforcing these laws is a "no brainer" so to speak as we work to make everyone aware of the problem. We are in the business of watching your child succeed in life. If our business fails, we *all* fail.

On a different subject, it seems that the traffic issues at the school are improving. Your patience, understanding, and careful driving habits have made this happen. I thank you. Keeping your children safe is the other part of the business we are in. If

you see someone operating their vehicle in an unsafe manner near the school, please write down their license plate and forward that information to the school or me. We will ensure that it will be taken care of privately and respectfully.

As always, thank you for a great year so far. I look forward to helping you and your children in 2010 and for many years to come. Do not hesitate to contact me at your child's school if there is anything I can do to be of assistance to you and your children.

Shawn Jensen  
School Resource Officer  
SSC Police Department

### **SAVE YOUR HY-VEE RECEIPTS...**

**During the holidays, we received many receipts. Please continue to save and turn in your receipts. Harney receives \$1.00 for every \$100 in receipts. Your help makes a difference!!!**

**SCHOOL YEARSBOOKS STILL ON SALE... You can purchase your child's 09-10 yearbook for \$15.00.**

### **LOOKING FOR 2010 – 2011 KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS...**

**If you have a child who will be 5 years old by October 15, 2010, Harney will be having their Kindergarten Round-Up on Friday, March 26, at 9:00 AM. Please contact the school office at 404-1446 with your child's information so they can be on our notification list. If you know of any students, please be sure to pass this information along. WATCH for further information.**

### **LIBRARY NEWS from Mrs. Von Hagel –**

**Fourth and Fifth grade students are learning about Melvil Dewey and the Dewey Decimal System. We just finished learning how nonfiction books are shelved. We will start a small research project in March.**

**Third grade students just finished reading and voting on their favorite Golden Sower book. We are now reading an Andrew Clements book titled "No Talking."**

Kindergarten through Second grade is learning about the author Mo Willems. We learned that Mo was a writer for Sesame Street and Nickelodeon before he started writing his own books. We have read his Pigeon books and Elephant and Piggie books.

Don't forget that all South Sioux City residents are eligible for a free library card from the public library. Visit the public library to learn more.

## **MANY THANKS TO...**

Harney Elementary's Student Council, Harney's Parent/ Teacher Organization and the Cardinal Foundation for raising and providing funds for the new electronic message board that will be installed in the front of Harney Elementary in the spring. We also give our thanks to the many parents who have purchased Harney fundraiser items in order to make this a possibility. Please watch the progress as this is installed. We look forward to using it to keep our students, staff and parents up to date on the happenings of Harney.

## **GETTING TO KNOW...**

**Sheryl Banks  
Kindergarten Teacher**

Hi. I am Sheryl Banks. I greatly enjoy being one of the Kindergarten teachers at Harney, working with children, their families, and the staff! My great-nieces, great-nephews, and I have fun doing many activities together. Playing the piano, walking, reading, appreciating nature, volunteering at church and in the community, and attending a variety of classes are also important parts of my life.

## **NEWS FROM THE READING DEPARTMENT**

How can I help my kids read at home?

When teachers want to know what students remember, we ask questions. When students want to know more about something, they ask questions. Questioning is a very important part of learning, here are some questions you can ask your children at home before, during and after they read.

Before reading:

- What do you think this book/chapter will be about (predict)? Why do you think that?
- Do you know anything about his subject or topic? Does it remind you of anything?

- If there are pictures/ illustrations, look through them and predict what it will be about.

#### During reading

- What has happened so far? Who are the main characters?
- Where is this taking place (setting)?
- Do you have any questions about the book so far?
- Can you make a connection with anything...characters, setting or problem?

#### After reading

- Play the book or chapter back in your head...what do you remember most?
- Sequence the events out loud...First, second, then, after that, then, finally, etc.
- How would you describe this book/chapter to someone who hasn't read it?

## **FROM THE SOUTH SIOUX CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY...**

March will be an exciting month at the South Sioux City Public Library! Stop by and check out all the activities we have planned for your children.

On March 1, during the Family Fun Night, 5:30 to 6:30 we are celebrating Dr. Seuss' Birthday. We will have guest readers reading their favorite Dr. Seuss books, Cat and the Hat will make an appearance, and what is a party without cake? Come join the celebration! Every Monday is a Family Fun Night at the library.

Friday March 5 from 1:00 to 3:00 we will have our School's Day Out program with Angela Abts from the UNL Extension Office. She teaches kids about healthy eating, lets them play games and there is a fun craft to do.

On Saturday March 6 starting at 1:00 we will have a LEGO Imagination Contest. This is for children aged 6 yrs old and up. The theme of the contest is Transportation so bring your LEGO blocks in and build. The contest will start at 1:00 and last until 2:00. Promptly at 2:00 we will begin judging the sculptures. There will be prizes for the top three in each of the three age categories!

On Thursday March 11 we will host Books Before Bed at 7:00. The children may come to the library in the pajamas with a pillow or stuff toy to cuddle with. We will have local volunteers reading books to the children to get them settled in for a good night sleep. The month of March we will be reading books about March Madness (basketball).

If your family has any students in the grades 6 to 12 then talk to them about joining our Teen Advisory Board. We meet only twice a month on the second and fourth Monday of each month from 6:30 to 7:30. On March 8 we will be discussing *The Last Part First* book by Angela Johnson in our Teen Book Talk. On March 22 we will have an agenda meeting to plan upcoming activities and help the library grow for the teens.

