

Stanton Community Schools

Home & School CONNECTION! (Working Together for School Success)

Volume XVII, Issue 5

November 29, 2019

From the Superintendent's Desk

By Michael J. Sieh

Mistakes! We All Make Them.

Mistakes! We have all made them and will continue to make them. The question becomes, "Are we learning from our mistakes or are we creating the same mistake over and over?"

Although I don't like admitting the mistakes I have made, I often use my poor judgment to either help myself for the future or share with a student if I think my mistake may help a student understand a point. Students are amazed to find out that my first trip to the principal's office was not because I accepted a principal job but rather for behavior incidents in grade school, junior high and high school. I was not the worst student in school, but I also was not the most behaved.

In my adult life, I continued to make mistakes. I feel that I have grown through the years by learning from every mistake I have made. I have found as we age, we tend to mature. Some of us just age faster than others.

I have always enjoyed running into former students. Many of them will state to me that they remember being in my office for something they did wrong. They can even tell me how I reacted. I'm confessing to all former students that often I don't remember students from the one or two times they were in my office, but more so by the good they brought to the school.

Just the other day, I ran

into a former student who talked about being in my office. As he talked, I was thinking, "Wow, this was over 20 years ago! I can't remember anything about this story. How am I going to respond?" Once he finished his story, I said that this may be true, but I remember how neat his handwriting was. He seemed a little disappointed. Maybe, I should not have said this in front of his wife. After all, he was trying to depict himself as the bad guy in school. NOT TRUE! Great student.

A blessing for me was my older brother who made a huge number of mistakes. Many times, I did not even know he was doing wrong until corrected by my parents. For example, I remember riding in my brother's car while he was driving and our parents following. I thought it was cool to just ride in his car with the radio on LOUD. When everyone arrived home, my dad asked my brother how fast he was going to which my brother answered 55 (the speed limit at the time). My dad knew better for he followed him home and drove 70 yet could not catch us. And, the smoldering engine was also a dead give away. Lesson learned for me! The moral to this story is learning from other people's mistakes is better than learning from our own.

What does all this mean? In the end, we are all going to make mistakes throughout our lives. The question becomes,

"How do we react when we make mistakes?" Are we going to learn from them or are we going to continue to make the same mistake over and over?

In conclusion, I leave you with a short story. This is a story about a famous research scientist who had made several very important medical breakthroughs. He was being interviewed by a newspaper reporter who asked him why he thought he was able to be so much more creative than the average person. What set him so far apart from others? He responded that, in his opinion, it all came from an experience with his mother that occurred when he was about two years old.

He had been trying to remove a bottle of milk from the refrigerator when he lost his grip on the slippery bottle and it fell, spilling its contents all over the kitchen floor — a veritable sea of milk! When his mother came into the kitchen, instead of yelling at him, giving him a lecture, or punishing him, she said, "Robert, I have rarely seen such a huge puddle of milk. Well, the damage has already been done. Would you like to get down and play in the milk for a few minutes before we clean it up?" Indeed, he did.

After a few minutes, his mother said, "You know, Robert, whenever you make a mess like this, eventually you have to clean it up and restore

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Reporters

Dr. Sieh Superintendent
Dr. Cunningham..... H.S. Principal
Mrs. Remm Elementary Principal
Mrs. Fernau..... Counselor
Mrs. Holoubek School Nurse
Mrs. Davies 5th Grade Instructor
Mrs. Schieffer... Preschool Instructor

Events Calendar

December 9

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

December 20

- 1:20 p.m. dismissal (Start of Christmas Vacation)
- 2nd Quarter Ends

January 6

- School reconvenes



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

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

Happy Holidays!

Connecting with Dr. Cunningham

By Dave Cunningham

Infinite Campus Parent and Student Portal

Parent and student portals look more like the web-based application. The parent portal is designed specifically for parents and is optimized for use on mobile devices and tablets. Users will need to log-in each time they use the app. If you have forgotten your username and password, please contact Samantha in the high school office and she can get you the appropriate information to get you logged into the parent portal.

Some of the features within the portals are a food service tab, reports tab, schedule tab, fees tabs, and an assignment tab. The food service tab allows you to see your current family lunch account balance and to see a history of purchases on certain days. Using the reports tab will allow you to print out report cards. Maybe as a parent you are keeping track of your students' assignments. The assignments tab allows parents to easily see what your child is working on for each class and if work is completed or missing.

Notification settings allow users to opt out of receiving specific kinds of notifications and establish thresholds for those they want to receive. Parents can set the threshold to only receive notification when a grade or score falls below the selected percentage or a lunch balance falls below the selected dollar amount. If you have questions about the parent portal, please contact me and we will set up a time to learn how to operate the parent portal.

Digital Citizenship

- ✓ What's wrong with cell phones? Nothing! Cell phones are useful tools when used appropriately and with good judgment.
- ✓ Cyberbullying, v.: The use of technology such as computers and cell phones to engage in repeated and hostile behavior by an individual or group that is intended to harm others.

- ✓ Majority of sexting incidents involve pictures sent to boyfriend/girlfriend.
- ✓ Don't assume anything is private.
- ✓ 40% of teens say "pressure from guys" is the reason girls post sexual messages and pictures.
- ✓ If something makes you uncomfortable, DON'T DO IT!

The Grandma Rule:

If you wouldn't show it to your grandma, Don't photograph it!

If you wouldn't write it to your grandma, Don't text it!

If you wouldn't tell your grandma about it, Don't post it!

If you wouldn't say it to your grandma, Don't say it during a cell phone call!

Activities...

Fall activities have ended and winter sports have started practicing. At this time, we are getting ready to play the first games of the 2019 - 2020 season.

Congratulations to the cross-country team and Coach Ernesti. TJ Larson, Kelton Van Pelt, Kolter Van Pelt (12th place) and Abe Larson (9th place) qualified for state. Congratulations to those athletes!

One-Act is in the middle of its season. Conference one-acts took place on November 25th, right here in Stanton. District competition took place on December 2nd in Wausa. State play production will be held in Norfolk at the Johnny Carson Theatre on December 12th.

Student-athletes are many times involved in numerous activities during the same season. It is a credit to our coaches and sponsors that Stanton High School student-athletes are successful in their activities. Thank you to the parents for your ongoing support of your student-athlete(s); showing and helping them to be successful in their activity endeavors.

Reminiscing with Mrs. Remm

By Sarah Remm

The School-Community Relationship

The Nebraska Department of Education defines the school improvement process as a systematic on-going **process** involving planning, implementation, and evaluation and renewal of **school improvement** activities to meet local and statewide goals and priorities. Stanton Community Schools has established several committees to focus on various areas within the school. Committee membership includes administration, board of education members, teachers, staff, parents, and community members.

One of these committees, the community committee, recently met to discuss programs and communication needs and to review the current action plan. The goal is to increase students' understanding of the importance of their involvement within their local community and to foster a high degree of involvement from school personnel and students within their community. To achieve the goal, our focus must be on building and maintaining positive relationships between the school and community. The vision we have for the students and the school district should connect the curriculum beyond the classroom walls.

Student organizations, high school and youth sports teams, charity events, parent volunteers, TeamMates, and community projects are a few of many programs and opportunities taking place within the school and community to encourage student participation and to involve staff, parents, and community members. How can we continue to provide these opportunities and more to all stakeholders? How can the school and community communicate with one another? What other school-based experiences involving the community can be offered? How can the community use the school's facilities? What opportunities do staff have to become actively engaged in the community, and how can students continue to serve their community?

As the 2019-2020 school year moves forward, I encourage members of both the school and community to think of ways to continue to strengthen our relationship with one another. Please share your ideas with an administrator or a teacher. Visit with the coaches and sponsors. The community committee will also continue to develop strategies, locate resources, and work on communication methods.



Holoubek's Health Tips

By Lisa Holoubek

5 Ways to Fight the Flu!

The flu is annoying enough on its own. So, it doesn't help that flu season falls at one of the most exciting times of the year.

To avoid missing out on sports events, family gatherings, and holiday fun, follow these tips:

- 1. Get the flu vaccine.** It's the best way to protect yourself against the flu. Getting vaccinated doesn't just protect your own health. It also helps the people around you because there's less chance you'll catch the flu and pass it on.
- 2. Wash your hands!** In addition to getting the flu vaccine, hand washing is an important line of defense against germs like flu viruses. Why? The body takes about 2 weeks to build immunity after a flu vaccine — and even a vaccine isn't foolproof if a new strain of virus starts making the rounds. Hand washing also helps protect against other germs and illnesses that there aren't vaccines for, like the common cold.
- 3. Keep your distance if someone is sick (coughing, sneezing, etc.).** Flu viruses

travel through the air, so try to stay away from people who look sick. Of course, people who have the flu virus don't always look sick. That's where vaccines and hand washing come in.

- 4. Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow — not into your hands.** That way, you're not spreading the virus when you touch surfaces that other people may touch too. It's also a good idea to avoid touching your nose, eyes, and mouth — three places flu viruses can easily enter the body.
- 5. Stay home if you have the flu.** You don't want to pass your germs to someone else. Rest can help the body recover faster.

You also can fight the flu on a daily basis by keeping your immune system strong. Some great immune boosters are getting enough sleep, eating healthy foods (including five or more servings of fruits and veggies a day!), drinking plenty of fluids, and getting regular exercise.

Don't let the flu interfere with your winter fun. Fight back!

MISTAKES

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

everything to its proper order. So, how would you like to do that? We could use a sponge, a towel, or a mop. Which do you prefer?" He chose the sponge and together they cleaned up the spilled milk. His mother then said, "You know, what we have here is a failed experiment in how to effectively carry a big milk bottle with two tiny hands. Let's go out in the back yard and fill the bottle with water and see if you can discover a way to carry it without dropping it." The little boy learned that if he grasped the bottle at the top near the lip with both hands, he

could carry it without dropping it.

This renowned scientist then remarked that it was at that moment that he knew he didn't need to be afraid to make mistakes. Instead, he learned that mistakes were just opportunities for learning something new, which is, after all, what scientific experiments are all about.

Even if the experiment "doesn't work," we usually learn something valuable from it. Make mistakes; you learn from them . . . but never repeat mistakes!

Fifth Graders Gearing Up For Christmas!

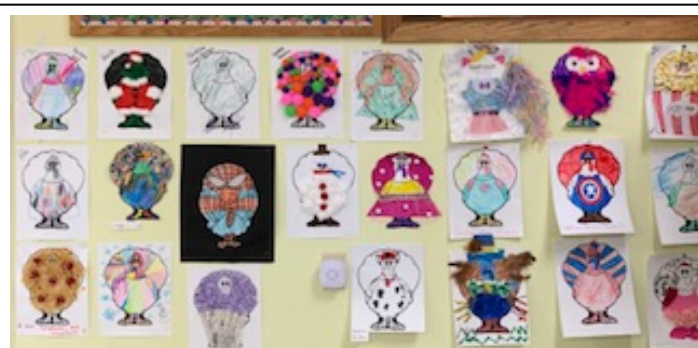
(Davies) December is an exciting time in fifth grade! On Wednesday, December 4th, the fifth graders will be going shopping for toys for a charity toy drive. We have asked each student to bring \$5 and we will group together to make our purchases. We do need parent volunteers to make this day run smoothly, so if any parents are available that day, please let us know! When we are finished with our purchases, we will go to Norfolk GM Auto and donate our gifts to their annual toy drive. We do this every year in place of a class gift exchange, and it is always one of the best memories of fifth grade.

The fifth graders continue

the fun on Friday, December 20th, by hosting a potluck lunch in their classrooms. Students will discuss traditional foods that their families enjoy around the holidays. We will celebrate our cultural differences and share memories of our favorite traditions. Each student has been asked to bring a dish based on the first letter of their last name:

- A-G main dish
- H-P salad
- Q-Z dessert

Our feast will start at 11:15 a.m. and will last until we are stuffed! We invite one and all to join in our celebration of families.



(Schieffer) The preschoolers are getting ready for Thanksgiving. They had a fun activity that was sent home for them to do with their families. We read "Turkey Trouble" and "Run Turkey Run". They had to disguise their turkeys so the farmer couldn't find them for his Thanksgiving Feast. They did awesome! We had turkeys disguised as superheroes, princesses, ballerinas, gumball machines, and even some yummy delicious food.

Happy Thanksgiving from the Lil' Stangs Preschool!



Counselor's Corner

By Lindy Fernau

December Newsletter 2019

Every regular school day, students have a 20-minute period in the morning for Advisory. Students use this time for some structured activities and meetings. The structured activities include reading and character-building time. The students 9-11 are mixed together in groups of 10-12 students. They stay with the same teacher for all 3 years along with some of the same students. The goal is to get to know other students whom they may not engage with normally and create a bond of understanding and acceptance. Each year they have a different curriculum to help foster some of the social-emotional issues teens face. This semester we have focused on using The Harbor by Jostens.

"The Harbor provides students with real perspectives from real people that will help them achieve greater success in

the outside world. The Harbor, featuring Mike Smith and guests, facilitates the teaching of character development in classrooms by showcasing tangible life lessons through a school year's worth of episodes with rich, raw and engaging video content. Designed for the classroom, each episode comes with critical thinking discussion guides to foster student led discussions."

You can check out these videos by visiting the following website and click on The Harbor in the upper right hand corner: www.jostensrenaissance.com

These are a few comments from the advisory teachers about this new program:

"Mike's presentations on staying positive and limiting social media distractions reached many students. The videos are short, but he hits the topics that youth need to hear."

"The videos are thought

provoking and really hold the students' attention. They present difficult topics in a student-friendly manner. My group has really shared some deep thoughts and has also been emotional some days. Some of them have quite passionate thoughts to share, while others prefer to keep it internal."

Some of the guest speakers include: John Harbaugh, on treating people right and making a difference in their lives; Kelsea Ballerini on individuality;

and Jordin Sparks on helping others. It was Jordin Sparks' message that inspired the students in Mrs. Hoien's advisory to want to make a difference by helping others. They decided to volunteer some time packing food at Mercy Meals in Norfolk. In one hour of volunteer time, the students packed enough bags of a rice mixture to feed 2,376 meals. The students were surprised by how many people they could help by volunteering just an hour of their time.



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