



SCRIBNER-SNYDER COMMUNITY SCHOOL
DECEMBER/JANUARY NEWSLETTER
2022-2023

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Patrons:

The school year is flying by and we are several weeks into quarter two already. The winter sports season is gearing up. Basketball games have already begun and wrestling meets will be starting on December 3rd. We encourage everyone to get out and support our student-athletes.

We'd like to give special thanks to Mrs. Wuestewald, Mr. Poessnecker, Mrs. Schafer and all the other staff members/students who worked to have an in-person Veteran's Day Program which was held on November 11th. The day began with coffee/cookies with the program following in the gym. And the school district added a new twist this year serving lunch to our veterans following the program. Veterans Day is always an exciting time to recognize all our past and present veterans for their service.

On Tuesday, November 8th, SSCS's junior class attended the Dodge County – County Government Day in Fremont. On this day, the juniors had the opportunity to learn about what the various county employees do while working at the Dodge County Court House. To end the event the students were treated to a pizza lunch and did a "solve the crime" scenario on a web-site provided by the Dodge County Sheriff's Office. A big thank-you to Mr. Stewart for registering the kids for the day as this event is always enjoyed by all.

Mrs. Enos (high school English teacher) and the One-Act participants have been working hard the past couple months preparing for the upcoming season. It takes a lot of time and dedication to be a part of this activity because the practices take place in the evenings after sports practices have ended. There will be a public performance and dinner on December 6th beginning at 6:30 p.m. for those who would like to attend. This year the One-Act Team has 19 students involved with this presentation and we want to wish them the best of luck at their competitions this season.

The end of the first semester will wrap up December 22nd with a 1:30 p.m. dismissal with Christmas break to follow on December 23rd -January 4th. On January 4th, the staff will return

to participate in an all-day teachers' in-service. The second semester of school will begin on Wednesday, January 5th.

We're hoping everyone has been enjoying the mild fall weather and that your harvest has come to an end. Wishing you and yours a blessed upcoming holiday season with friends and family.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Stithem



DECEMBER SAVE THE DATES:

December 5-9---Scholastic Book Fair @ S-S

December 6—One-Act Public Performance & Dinner (Open to public), 6:30 p.m.

December 9—Elementary Christmas Program, PreK-K----6:30 p.m. /Grades 1-6----7 p.m.

December 9---Christmas Cookie Tray Sales during Christmas Program, 6 p.m. until gone!

December 14—Board of Education meeting, 6:30 p.m.

December 20—Jr./Sr. High Christmas Program, 7 p.m.

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

By Joe Peitzmeier

As I write this, the fall sports/activity season has come to a close and the winter sports/activity season is already in full swing. By the time you read this newsletter, I am in hopes that you have recovered from an enjoyable Thanksgiving feast and special time with family. Last month the annual Veteran's Day program sponsored by Scribner-Snyder Community Schools and the Scribner Chamber was held. Thanks to everyone that had a part in this outstanding tribute to our veterans. We were honored to have Senator Lynn Walz give the keynote address. This program helps remind me to be thankful to the veterans for the sacrifices that they have made so that we can live the way we do in the greatest nation on earth.

We are in year one of the Continuous School Improvement process and in conjunction with that process have begun on a Strategic Planning Process. Our goal is to generate data by engaging our community, staff, students, businesses and families in an effort to define what it is that we do well and what we see as opportunities for growth. We are being assisted in this process by the Nebraska Association of School Boards staff. A representative will be at the December board meeting on the 14th to share information gathered up to this point. We look forward to getting this update and plan on a future community engagement meeting in January or February to discuss these results with you. So, be on the lookout for an invitation to this event.

I want to assure you that our teachers and support staff continue to be very proactive in continuing to provide the fine educational tradition at Scribner-Snyder Community Schools. We continue to evaluate curriculum, upgrade technology, fine tune testing procedures, and build on our Positive Behavior Support System in order to improve the education of our youth.

In closing, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year! As always, my door is open. If you have concerns pertaining to the schools—do not hesitate to contact me at (402) 664-2568.

School Closing/Dismissal Information

- *Please understand that safety for students is the main concern in the decision to close schools.
- *When school is dismissed early for bad weather, students who drive their own vehicles and live outside the city limits will be required to contact their parents by telephone prior to leaving school.
- *Bus/van students will ride home as usual.
- *My main contact is KTIC AM 840 & FM 107.9 radio and TV channels 3, 6, or 7 in Omaha for any school closing, late start, or early dismissal due to threatening weather. I will also attempt to contact KFAB 1110 radio.
- *We will also send out an all call to family's phones through School Messenger
- *On late starts, we typically plan to start school 2 hours late. We realize that some roads are more hazardous than others and we do not expect students or parents to endanger their safety in order to get to school. If a student legitimately cannot get to school because of weather conditions, they will be excused.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

3rd Graders learning about electricity

This year 3rd grade has been going by so fast! We are already only a couple weeks away from our Christmas break! Kids have been wonderful this year. We have been learning to multiply and divide most of the year, but we have begun working with place value drawings and word problems. Students have really had a lot of fun with math this year, which is good because it has been quite challenging.

In science we have been working with magnets. Students were able to do several experiments with magnets, such as, the floating paperclip experiment, and the dancing paperclip. Students just came off a short but informative unit on static electricity. They learned what to do to generate static electricity,



and how electrically charged objects react to other objects around them. The results were quite shocking.

Overall, we have had a fantastic year in 3rd grade. I look forward to the remainder of this fast-moving year. I hope everyone has a safe a fun Thanksgiving holiday. Thank you for your support in and outside of the classroom!

Mrs. Stewart's Kindergarten Class

This year our class has been fortunate to have a wonderful student teacher. Zoey Bergman comes to us from UNK. She has been an amazing addition to our classroom. She has a passion for teaching and it shows with the enthusiasm that she has. She will be graduating this December so we will have to say goodbye to her in just a few short weeks.

The 15 kindergarteners have been busy. In October we went to Harvest Moon Pumpkin Patch in Oakland, NE. The students had a great time and the weather was a little windy with some rain but we still had a wonderful time. Thank you to the PTA for paying for our admission. We dressed up for Red Ribbon Week and had two officers come and speak to us about staying drug free and not to bully. We made tangram pictures with the HAL program students. In November we made handprint flags to decorate for the Veteran's Day Program. With the help of the 1st grade we lead the Veteran's Day Program with the saying of The Pledge. We got to have a few dress-up days for American Education week and did some yoga for relaxation. Lastly, we disguised turkeys so they wouldn't get eaten. December will bring the departure of Ms. Bergman, a concert and party fun.



Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the kindergarten class!

Striving to Succeed in the Sixth Grade



By Shandera Simpson

Boo! I could only imagine the terror on Mrs. Reinert's face when she opened her coat closet to find fifth grade teacher Mrs. Gustafson waiting to jump out at her. Reinert said one of her funniest moments of the school year so far was, "Mrs. Gustafson jumping out of my coat closet and scaring me." Teachers aren't always strict and focused, nor are they always on their toes, so sometimes it's fun to be a little surprised.

"I enjoy the kids and the people I work with," Reinert said when asked what she is enjoying most about her first year at Scribner-

Snyder Community Schools. Adjusting can be hard sometimes but for Reinert it seems to come naturally, and she fits into her work environment effortlessly.

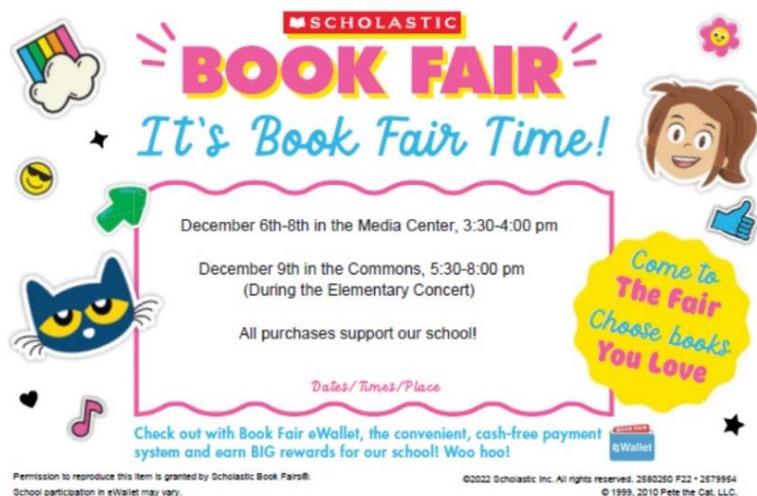
Reinert can be seen with a smile on her face and a willingness to throw whatever fun remark she has your way. “They’re independent and they get my sarcasm and sense of humor,” Reinert said when asked what she enjoyed most about teaching sixth grade. As a former teacher at a previous school, Reinert has an abundance of experience in education and loves to be around the kids.

Even though everyone is excited for Christmas, Reinert is still thinking about her dad’s signature dish for Thanksgiving. “I get together with my family and we make my dad’s homemade noodles.” Mrs. Reinert is focused on the turkey before Santa.

Reinert not only has amazing goals for herself professionally, but also has goals for her students. “I would like for the kids to keep improving their math skills.” Going along with her goal is a motto she goes by and has displayed on her wall in the sixth-grade room, “Believe in yourself.” Some motivation we all need to have and thrive for in our lives.

Every campus has its ups and downs or a missing component that could be better. Reinert said that “a teacher’s lounge would be really nice and a fountain soda machine.”

Scribner-Snyder Community Schools is excited to experience more adventures with Reinert and her amazing ideas to spice things up around campus. Speaking of adventures, don’t forget to check your closet for surprises along the way.



New, But Old.

My name is Kris Reinert. I am the new 6th grade teacher at Scribner-Snyder Community Schools. Although I am new to the district, I’m old when it comes to teaching. This is my 28th year of teaching. The 2022-23 school year has brought many changes for me. I’m working in a new school system. I’m working with a whole new group of people, and I am back teaching in a regular education classroom after spending the last 4 years working as a special education teacher. And, so far, I am loving all the changes in my career.

One of the changes I have experienced in my new job is working with new people. The staff here at Scribner-Snyder has been very welcoming. I am very lucky to work with

some very knowledgeable & dedicated teaching professionals. They have made me feel like I have been teaching at SSCS my entire career.

The best change I have experienced with my move to SSCS has been the students that I teach. My 6th graders here have been extremely welcoming to me. I'm thankful every day for these 12 individuals that I get to share my teaching days with. I believe they teach me as much as I hope I teach them. I am thankful for the opportunity to be teaching here at SSCS. The staff and students here have made this new, old lady feel very welcome.

The fifth grade class this year is small, but mighty!

With three girls in fifth grade, we have had lots of laughs and lots of learning taking place. This school year we have a new reading program. The fifth grade just finished a unit on natural disasters. One of the natural disasters our program focused on was hurricanes. Coincidentally this was at the same time as Tropical Storm Nicole



which briefly turned into a hurricane. We were able to track its path and take what we learned in our story and apply it to a situation happening in real life. The fifth graders have also been busy brushing up on their multiplication facts with an activity called Banana Split Multiplication. For each set of facts they pass, they earn an ingredient that will make a banana split. The goal is shortly after Christmas, that each student will have passed all their multiplication facts that we will celebrate with actual banana splits! One other fun addition fifth grade has had this year is having a Spanish class. Once a week, Mrs. Schroetlin comes into the fifth and sixth grade to teach them introductory Spanish words such as colors and numbers. The students were able to practice their Spanish colors by playing a game of Candyland in which they had to use the Spanish color names to talk about the colors they landed on. Fifth grade is eager to continue the laughter and learning the rest of the school year.

School Psychologist Serving Students

By Andrea Hass

Teachers help students learn but sometimes a teacher can get schooled by their students...or at least, the students are going to try to school their teacher. Mr. Jeffrey Tlamka, our school psychologist at Scribner-Snyder Community School, remembers a time when he got prank called by some of his former students. "When I was a math teacher (a different school district), three of my 7th grade students prank called me." The students were asking Tlamka, in a disguised voice, about rice. "I was able to figure out who they were, and where the call was coming from, and I was also able to identify one of the voices of the other boys. That following Monday we had a discussion with the principal, me, and the boys to make sure it didn't happen again."

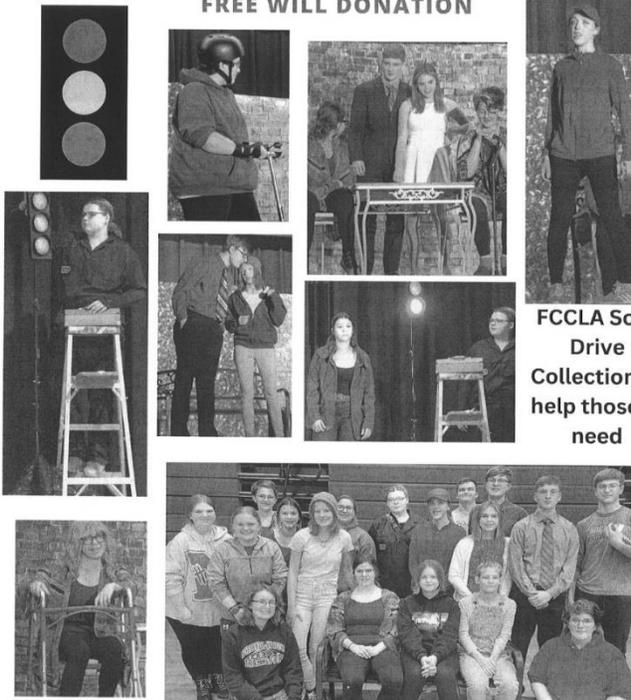
Every educator has a funny story or two from their teaching-preparation program too. Tlamka explained his from his time studying at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. "When I was student-teaching, I dressed up in a Halloween costume that was a brown leisure suit."

As far as a personal goal and motto, Tlamka's favorite is, "Carpe diem" which means, "to make the most of the present time." His goal is to make sure his student cases' paperwork is submitted on time to the state. Tlamka also wants to make sure his cases allow him enough time to do a high-quality job, because each student deserves his best. He also wants his students to improve from wherever they start to individual progress.

Tlamka became a school psychologist, because he loves working with kids on more of a one-on-one basis. When he was a math teacher, there were too many kids in the room to help them all effectively each day.

A main characteristics Tlamka likes about Scribner- Snyder is that he enjoys working with the staff and students, because they are very welcoming and great to collaborate with. He is also pleased to work in a small-town environment, because there is something special in working with a smaller community as compared to a large city. Now Tlamka does most of the schooling. He's helping students and families perform at their best.

**FCCLA COMMUNITY CHICKEN DINNER &
ONE-ACT PERFORMANCE OF
"ONE STOPLIGHT TOWN"
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
DINNER: 6:30 - 7:30 PM - SSCS COMMONS
ONE-ACT PERFORMANCE: 7:30 PM - SSCS STAGE/GYM
FREE WILL DONATION**



Activity programs are thriving and busy!

We have just wrapped up the SSCS Fun Fest! There was an amazing turnout, and we want to take a minute to thank everyone who helped, donated, and attended. It was a fun and positive way to support our students! We are already looking forward and planning for next year's event. As a reminder, the proceeds of the Fun Fest will go towards supporting students in multiple activities. The goal of the Fun Fest was to help eliminate a lot of the smaller fundraisers to lessen the load on parents, staff, and community and that is going to be accomplished with all of the support that was received! Thank you all for your generosity!

Boys' and girls' wrestling seasons are quickly approaching. Both teams will start their seasons with a tournament! The girls will be wrestling at Fremont High School on December 2nd, and the boys will be wrestling at Howells-Dodge on December 3rd! Further in the girls' wrestling season, they will host two home events. The first one is a dual on December 8th against Madison at 5:00 p.m., and the second date is December 22nd which is a triangular with Logan View and North Bend at 5:00 p.m. We are hoping to tie some other fun events to the December 22nd date. Keep an eye on the website and Facebook for more information.



Not only has wrestling started, so has basketball. Junior high boys' basketball kicked off their season with a game against North Bend! High school basketball started their season on November 21st with a Jamboree game against the Bergan Knights. The high school basketball season will continue with games against Oakland-Craig, Aquinas, and Wahoo! Keep an eye on the school calendar for dates and times of the upcoming games.

Our winter music concerts are coming up too! The elementary program will be on December 9th. The preschool and kindergarten kids will start at 6:30 and 1st-6th grade will start at 7:00 p.m. Christmas cookie trays will also be for sale this evening until they are gone. The high school concert will be on December 20th at 7:00 p.m. Please come out and watch our talented students!



Lastly, just a reminder that the gym will be closed December 23rd – 27th for moratorium.

JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

- Jan. 4—NO School—Teacher In-Service
- Jan. 5—Classes Resume for Semester 2
- Jan. 11—Board of Education meeting

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Mrs. Nemecek & Ms. Williams (AD Intern)

It's been an exciting year for the business department at Scribner-Snyder. Two new classes were introduced this year, Entrepreneurship and Introduction to Business. We have also started the process of opening our school store!

The Entrepreneurship class was accepted into the Engler Launch program at UNL, so they have been busy traveling to UNL, Zooming with their mentor, and participating in the Quick Pitch

event, where they were awarded \$500 to use for their business idea. They are using this funding to help their screen-printing business get started. The shirts they make will be used in the school store, selling to students, parents, and the community. The students chose to name the school store “The Trojan Hut”. While the store is still in the early stages, they are excited about the process and have learned many valuable skills.



The Personal Finance class enjoyed working on a Friendsgiving Project for Thanksgiving. This hands-on project gave them experience with budgeting and shopping. Students had to choose 1-2 dishes to bring for a Friendsgiving meal. They were required to find a recipe, shop online for ingredients, and track the cost of the total recipe. It was an eye opener for a lot of students who didn't realize how much food can cost!

The Introduction to Business class just wrapped up their marketing unit, where they learned that marketing is much more than just commercials and ads. They were challenged to go a whole day without experiencing or seeing any marketing. No one was successful in that challenge, as they soon realized that marketing is all around them and influences them daily. Throughout the unit they were able to experience marketing from the customer and business perspectives, which helped them understand the marketing process much clearer. The class will change to Accounting for the second semester, and I am excited to help them learn this new subject.

Concerts approaching at S-S

First it was Halloween, and then Thanksgiving, and then....what CHRISTMAS ALREADY! Every year it seems as though Christmas moves up earlier and earlier on the school calendar. First up, the elementary concert is set to hit the stage on Friday, December 9th. The Pre-School and Kindergarten will take the stage at 6:30 pm to show their Christmas spirit and then the students in grades 1-6 will entertain us with some *Crazy Carols* at 7 pm.

Before we go on winter break, the Jr./Sr. High will give our concert on Tuesday, December 20th at 7 pm. We've spent the fall growing and developing some of our skills and learning how to work as a group. Every year presents new challenges and it is always neat to see how the kids work together.

This year we also had a first in over 15 years. Garrett Hunke was selected to the 2022 Nebraska All State Chorus. He (along with 439 others) rehearsed and performed their concert in Lincoln November 16-18 and it was a great experience. It is a true honor to be selected and we are all proud of his accomplishment.

Garrett was not the only one though to receive outside recognition. 5 students auditioned for the East Husker Conference Honor Band and all 5 were selected! Congratulations to Garrett Hunke, Rylee Nemecek, and Nattlie Hull for being selected the Symphonic Band. Also, congratulations to Zoey Gathman and Kadyn Wheelock for being selected to the Wind Ensemble. Those students will travel to Twin River in February for that honor band rehearsal and performance. It is a testament to their work on improving their craft.

We hope you enjoy this holiday season and hope to see you at our programs in the coming month. Happy Holidays!

SENIORS...Things to do this winter!!

There's A LOT going on right now with the financial aid and college admission processes, but don't get overwhelmed! Here's a recap of tasks you should complete this fall to stay on track to college.



Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

First, create an FSA ID for you and one for a parent at fsaid.ed.gov. You'll need it to access and sign the FAFSA.

Review our FAFSA Checklist for a list of items to gather before you start the form.

Complete the FAFSA at fafsa.gov. You may also complete it via the myStudentAid app for iOS and Android.

For free help with the FAFSA, see FAFSA Tools at EducationQuest.org or call EducationQuest to make an appointment: Omaha – 888.357.6300.

Apply to your top college choices. Retake the ACT and/or SAT. Colleges use your best scores for college admission and scholarships. See *ScholarshipQuest* at EducationQuest.org for Nebraska-based scholarships and a list of national search sites.

Juniors...start researching colleges

If you narrow your college choices by the end of your junior year, your senior year will be less stressful. Here's how to get started:

Review *College Profiles* at EducationQuest.org for information about colleges in Nebraska and across the country. If you're interested in an out-of-state school, check out the Midwest Student Exchange Program to learn about tuition discounts.

Meet with college representatives who visit your school, and then visit the websites of the colleges that interest you to learn more about the schools.

Once you've narrowed your choices, schedule campus visits. Try to visit in the spring of your junior year while colleges are still in session.

What to expect after you submit your FAFSA

The FAFSA opened October 1, so many of you have already completed and submitted your form. Here's what happens next:

Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR). You'll receive it via an email link if you provided an email address on your FAFSA. The SAR acknowledges that your FAFSA was received and lets you know if you need to take further action to process your FAFSA.

Make sure you applied for admission to colleges you listed on your FAFSA. Colleges that receive your FAFSA results typically won't send you a financial aid package until you've applied and have been accepted to the school.

Watch for verification requests. The college(s) you listed on your FAFSA might request verification of your FAFSA information. If so, send the required documents to the colleges' financial aid office.

Watch for financial aid award notifications. The colleges you were accepted to – and listed on your FAFSA – will send you financial aid award notifications detailing the types and amounts of aid they're offering based on your financial need.