OAKLAND-CRAIG PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER – April/May, 2009

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT,
By Joe Peitzmeier

PROFESSIONAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT

As this memo is being written, I am hearing the forecast for warmer weather. It is hard to believe that we just battled slick roads and frigid temperatures to get to school the last couple of days. I cannot believe where the school year has gone! It was just over 8 months ago that I started here as the superintendent. It has been a great year. During the year we have had numerous planning sessions with various groups in an attempt to continue improving our school so that we can continue to improve learning for students.

In December, the school board met to discuss setting board goals. After much discussion over the past months; on Monday, March 9, the board adopted those goals. Each of the goals that we set is intended to improve student learning. For the most part the average person will not even notice that we are working on accomplishing those goals. However, one goal in particular will affect all people sending children to school. This change involves the school calendar and more specifically, the school day. Find attached the school calendar for 2009-2010.

Research tells us that to improve student learning, we need to improve professional development for teachers. The board has set the following goal to improve professional staff development in our schools: "create ongoing, frequent, focused staff development." We are attempting to accomplish this with a change in the daily schedule in the 2009-2010 school year. We will have a late start every Wednesday to conduct high quality professional development for our teachers and support staff.

To accomplish this, on Wednesdays, school for students will start at 10:15 am. On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday Junior/Senior High School will start at 8:15 am and the elementary will start at 8:30 am. Bus schedules will be sent out in the fall as in the past. This schedule will allow us to have at least an hour and a half each week to provide professional development for staff to:

-build content knowledge and focus on student learning linked with achieving standards
-use data and assessments to direct learning
-improve teacher effectiveness in terms of student achievement
-advance teacher understanding of effective instructional strategies
-provide instruction in methods of teaching children with special needs.

I am confident that this new schedule and the additional professional development activities will help improve student learning across the school district.

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REMINDER TO PLAN AHEAD WHEN GETTING DRIVER LICENSES

If your student is planning to get their driver license over the summer because their birthday falls in a summer month, and you do not have the required CERTIFIED copy of their birth certificate, you must contact the school before May 31st to get the paperwork needed. Computer security and passwords, locked buildings, wet, freshly-shampooed carpets, staff on limited time in the office – all lend to the problems that we face when trying to help you get the paperwork needed.

We do not have staff here at school **over the summer months** to obtain a birth certificate or the age verification form which the driver license bureau will accept for your student to obtain their driver license. You must ask for this information before May 31. We have a letter prepared for the Department of Motor Vehicles which verifies your student's birth date and you must have either the CERTIFIED copy of the birth certificate or the letter from school.

This letter is not available from June 1 until August 1. Please plan ahead.

CLOSE-UP 2010

Eleven students are signed up. Juniors and Seniors may still sign up today. The approximate date of 2010 Close-up is the 3rd week of March 2010. We will be planning spring and summer fundraising after April 1. Sponsor: Karla Shelley

IMPORTANT MEDICAL INFORMATION FOR YOUR STUDENT

CHANGE IN WHERE YOU CAN GET YOUR IMMUNIZATIONS

Goldenrod Hills Immunization Program continues to do immunizations at their regular scheduled clinic at the Oakland Mercy Hospital; however, if the times of their clinic don't work into your schedule, many doctors' offices offer immunizations. Oakland Mercy Medical Clinic is also offering immunizations for children with private insurance, Medicaid, insurance that doesn't cover immunizations, and children with no insurance.

These immunizations through any doctor's office can be combined with a school physical provided you have a scheduled appointment. The Oakland Clinic will not offer any immunizations on the day of the school physical round up. No matter where you get your child's shots, make sure to bring a current copy of their immunizations with so the provider can document what your child received. Then, the copy you bring to the school will be current.

SCHOOL PHYSICALS

If you choose to have your student take their school/athletic physical at the Oakland Mercy Medical Clinic on **Tuesday, May 12** - the times are listed below. It is your choice to have their physical done at the Oakland Mercy Medical Clinic or your own personal doctor's office. The following information applies to the Oakland Mercy Medical Clinic exams:

Specimens will be collected at the clinic. Do not bring a specimen. If students have their physical taken on this date and at this time, the physicals will cost parents only $25. Students must bring the $25 with them at the time of the physical. Your check should be made payable to OAKLAND MERCY MEDICAL CLINIC. No other physical arrangements at another time will be accepted for the $25 cost.

TUESDAY – Boys	**TUESDAY – Girls**
boys in grades 6 & 7 @ 2:15	girls in grades 6 & 7 @ 2:00
boys in grades 8 & 9 @ 3:15	girls in grades 8 & 9 @ 3:00
boys in grades 10 & 11 @ 4:15	girls in grades 10 & 11 @ 4:00

a note to incoming 7th grade parents – a school physical is REQUIRED before your 7th grader can attend classes on August 19th. This is a state law.

If your child intends to participate in any sport – junior high or high school – a physical is REQUIRED before they can even practice.

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

The Oakland-Craig Schools will hold Kindergarten Round-up on Friday, April 3 from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Kindergarten is open to all youngsters who will be five years of age on or before October 15, 2008. If you have had no contact with school or if you know of someone with an eligible youngster who has not yet been contacted by the school, please call Holly or Mr. Holys at 685-5631.

On our Round-Up day, students will meet with our kindergarten teachers and parents will meet with Mr. Holys Expect an exciting morning for both you and your child.
**Remember, there will be no kindergarten classes held that day for current kindergarteners.

FROM THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – from Mr. Holys

As a reminder, we are continuing to need your help with projecting numbers for kindergarten classes next fall. If you have not already done so, please contact the school if your child turns 5 years of age on or before October 15 and you plan on sending them to kindergarten. This will help us to predict needs for our next school year. Kindergarten Round-up will be April 3rd from 9:30 to 11:00. At this time we will have forms to be filled out as well as informational presentations from physical ed., speech and language services, and myself regarding preparing for the kindergarten year.

For the 2009-2010 school year, we will not be offering the Kindergarten Readiness program. The early childhood educational team has come to the consensus that in order to better serve our full day kindergartners, we will not have the half day kids next year. With the success of our preschool program, we have an early childhood program that provides opportunities for all preschool children within our community and I encourage any families with a preschooler to take advantage to better prepare their child for kindergarten. We accept all Oakland-Craig students that turn 4 on or before October 15, then as space allows, accept any 5 years olds with special needs (IEP's), and the older 3 year olds. State statute at this point does not allow grant funded preschools such as ours to enroll kindergarten eligible students without special needs. We will be taking applications for our preschool April 16 from 5-7pm, and April 17 from 8:30 to 3:30. If these dates and times will not work, we will gladly set up individual times as needed. If you have any questions or concerns please call our office. Thanks!

Just a reminder that you should not call the elementary school before 7am with your absences or bussing info. No one will be answering the elementary phone before 7.

O-C Youth Boys & Girls Future Stars Basketball Camp - On Tuesday-Thursday, May 26-May 28, from 11:30am-1:00pm, the O-C Basketball Coaches and Players will offer a youth boys & girls basketball camp for all boys & girls entering Kindergarten through 3rd grade in the fall of 2009. The focus of this camp will be introducing the game of basketball at a very elementary level and having fun. Each camp participant will receive individual instruction, numerous awards and certificates, and a gift. Camp brochures will be sent home in May. Please contact Dannika Nelson for more information.

O-C Youth Girls Shooting Stars Basketball Camp - On May 26-May 29, from 9:00-11:00am, the O-C Girls Basketball Coaches and Players will offer a youth girls basketball camp for all girls entering the 4th through 8th grade in the fall of 2009. The focus of this camp will be fundamentals, skill development and having fun. Camp will consist of games, contests, and prizes for all participants. Camp brochures will be sent home in May. Please contact Merritt Nelson for more information.

O-C Girls Weight Lifting/Conditioning-Beginning June 1ST and continuing throughout the summer, every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday morning at 8:00 am, the weight room will be open for O-C girls, grades 7-12, to complete the lifting/conditioning program.

Elementary & Jr. High Girls Basketball Open Gym - Beginning June 2nd and continuing throughout the summer, every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday morning at 9:00 am the gym will be open for all elementary and junior high girls to play basketball.

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament - On Saturday, June 6th, the 11th Annual Oakland 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament will be held in the Oakland-Craig Gymnasium. For an entry form or more information, please contact Aaron Meyer or Merritt Nelson.

Boys Weight Lifting – June 1 - August 7
Monday – Wednesday – Friday from 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Monday – Thursdays - Friday from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

O-C Boys Basketball Youth Camp (grades 4-8) – June 15 – 19 (AM)

O-C Boys Open Gym - June 2 – July 18
Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 12 – 1:30 pm

O-C Lil Diggers Volleyball Camp – June 22 - 24
O-C VB Conditioning –July 21-22-23

O-C Football Camp – 1 day (full contact) "4 Banger" – June 27
O-C Football Camp – July 27 - 31
Junior High School – 6 – 7:30 pm
High School – 7:30 – 8:30 pm

O-C Football Conditioning (grades 9-12) – July 20 – 31 – 7 pm

Start of FALL sports practice – August 17, 2009
First day of school – Tuesday, August 19, 2009
"Dead week" for winter activities –December 23 - 27, 2009
School resumes – Thursday, January 5, 2010
Commencement – Sunday, May 16, 2010 @ 4:00 p.m.
Anticipated last day of the 2008-2009 school year – Friday, May 25, 2010

BOYS GOLF 2009
The 2009 boys' golf season is underway. There are 18 students signed up. Though the weather was a little uncooperative in early March, we have been able to do some work on the driving range and putting green.

The Knights will be coached this year by Karl Lundquist and assisted by Sean Linder and Bob Wonka.

With several golfers returning from the 2008 state-qualifying team, optimism is running high. The first triangular will be March 31 in Wayne and the first invitational is the DC West Invite in Valley scheduled for April 8.

DISTRICT MUSIC CONTEST
Oakland-Craig Schools will attend District Music Contest on Friday, April 24 at Yutan. A detailed contest schedule will be published in the Oakland Independent prior to this event. We would love to see you at Yutan – please consider making a road trip with us on April 24th! Because the event is held at Yutan, April 24 will be a regular school day for all students not in the high school band or choir.

ELEMENTARY MUSIC SPRING PROGRAM

On Thursday, April 30th, the elementary spring music program will be held in the new gym at 7:00 p.m. The program will feature the 5th & 6th grade bands, followed by the grade K-6 vocal program presenting a patriotic celebration of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

MUSIC AWARDS NIGHT

The annual Music Awards Night and year-end concert will be on Tuesday, May 5 at the new gym. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. The high school and junior high band and chorus will be featured on this program. Awards and letters will also be presented, including the National School Choral Award, the Patrick Gilmore Band Award, and the John Philip Sousa Band Award. Also, there will be a soup supper before the concert from 5 – 7pm in the commons.

HONOR ROLL TO OMAHA COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE IN OMAHA

Hopefully your student will soon be receiving an invitation to the annual Junior-Senior High Honor Roll Field Trip! Students who have consistently made the Honor Roll all three quarters will be invited to spend a day especially for them. On Friday, April 17, they will travel to Omaha to the Omaha Community Playhouse. This theatre group is the largest community playhouse in the nation. The honor students will also be treated to pizza and pasta at Valentino's for lunch. Following lunch the students will cosmic bowl at the Maplewood Lanes.

Oakland-Craig Public Schools and the Oakland-Craig Education Association sponsor this annual event. They are proud to honor the students for their focus on academics.

OAKLAND-CRAIG SPEECH TEAM HEADS TO STATE !!

The Oakland-Craig speech team was Runner-up at the district on March 4th at Wayne State College. The team qualified nine contestants in seven events for the state meet. State qualifiers include: Brandon Peterson and Sara Ann Prewett, both in Humorous Prose, Clare Carl in poetry, Josh Wilson in informative, James Wallerstedt in Entertainment Speaking, the Duet Acting team of Baker Blanc and Kiersten Wallerstedt and the Oral Interpretation of Drama team composed of Peterson, Prewett, J. Wallerstedt, Nathan Smith and Hannah Hyslop. The state meet is in Kearney at the UNK campus on Thursday, March 19th.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION
OUR FAMILY BAR CODE LABELS
CAMPBELL SOUP LABELS
POP TABS (for Ronald McDonald House)

Over the summer, be sure to continue to save the box tops for education off General Mills products, the Our Family bar code labels, Campbell soup labels and pop tabs for our special education program.

General Mills Products need the BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION square, the Our Family Labels for Learning needs only the UPC CODES and Campbell soup products need, well, the entire label……

COMMUNITY BIRTHDAY CALENDAR
ORDER FORM

Please return this form to Brenner Beavers at Oakland-Craig Schools, 309 N Davis Ave, Oakland, NE 68045 to reserve your copy of the 2009-2010 calendar. *We must receive your order by May 1 to include birthdays or anniversaries on the calendar.*

Please reserve ____ copies of the 2009-2010 calendar.

I enclose $_____ in payment. Calendars are $5.00 each. (Please make checks payable to Oakland-Craig Schools.)

Please list the birthdays you wish printed on the calendar:

Name Birth date (Month & day)

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Wedding anniversary (Optional) _____
(Do you wish the anniversary listed as: Mr. and Mrs. or as John & Mary? (Please circle your choice.)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Thank you for your support! The calendars will be delivered in August.
The first month on the calendars is September 2009.