

# Norwalk Community School District Newsletter

March 2018

## Norwalk's Mission:

Our fundamental purpose is to create a rigorous, collaborative and inclusive learning environment for all students so each individual is empowered to pursue a lifetime of personal success in college, career, and citizenship.

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## Norwalk CSD Board Members

Rick Kaul	Board President
Maribeth Wright	Vice President
David Albrecht	Board Member
Justin Fletcher	Board Member
Dana Schuemann	Board Member

## **World Class Schools for Our Students:**

### **Crisis Response**

*D.T. Magee, Superintendent of Schools*

The Week of February 19 brought tragedy to Norwalk High School (NHS) and the Norwalk Community School District (NCSD) when NHS senior Romalis (Ro) Weathers unexpectedly died on Tuesday, February 20. NHS staff members responded by implementing the district's Crisis Response Plan, a plan that had been previously developed to prepare our district for this type of event. The NHS Crisis Response Team was assisted by staff members from the Heartland AEA Crisis Response Team. NHS leaders also reached out to the Norwalk Ministerial Association for assistance. Local pastors were present at NHS on Wednesday, February 21 along with NCSD counselors, and Heartland AEA counselors to assist students and staff members with the grieving process.

I do not have adequate words to describe the loss that has been felt by Ro's family and our district. I want to thank everyone in the community who has rallied around Ro's family and our students and staff members. An additional support that is available to all of our students is Unity Point's Student Assistance Program. They have counselors available Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30 and can be contacted at their toll free number: 1-800-732-4490. As parents, your continued support and encouragement for each of our students is vital. Let them know they are loved.

Representatives from the NHS Crisis Response Team and Heartland AEA Crisis Response Team will meet soon to refine the district's Crisis Response Plan based on lessons learned from this recent tragedy. My hope is that our district never has to use the NCSD Crisis Response Plan again, but we will be prepared should another tragedy occur.

Yours in service,  
D.T.

## **Important Dates**

March 1-2—Iowa Assessments  
March 12-16—Spring Break  
March 27—End of 3rd quarter

## **Numbers You Should Know**

### **District Office**

515-981-0676

### **Buildings and Grounds**

515-981-0917

### **High School**

515-981-4201

### **HS Activities Office**

515-981-4204

### **Eastview 8/9**

515-981-9655

### **Middle School**

515-981-0435

### **Lakewood Elementary**

515-981-1850

### **Oviatt Elementary**

515-981-1005

### **Nutrition**

515-981-9876

### **Transportation**

515-981-0016

## **Large Group Speech News**

**By: Kylie Haggerty, Large Group Speech Coach**

This year's Large Group Speech season has been one of growth and learning. With two new coaches, Diane Edwards (previously assistant coach) and Kylie Haggerty (new to the district), the start of our season sometimes felt like an uphill battle, but by the end we could not be more proud of our students' progress.

This year's team had around 30 participants, divided into 9 different groups. Groups participated in the categories of Readers Theater, Ensemble Acting, and Improv at the district contest at Roosevelt High School on January 20th. Improv has proved to be a strength at Norwalk--with four of our five groups moving on to the state contest on February 3rd at Waukee.

While in an ideal world, we would be able to take all of our groups to the state contest, we were happy to be able to work with such a great group of kids. While we and students (I'm sure) enjoy having our mornings and afternoons back now that practices are over, I am already missing the laughter and craziness of our groups. As we look forward to next year, we would love to grow our program to reach more students and spread our passion for speech and theater.



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## **Best Practices in Remediating Reading Elementary Teaching and Learning**

**By: Dawn Schiro**

Norwalk Community Schools has provided a remedial reading program in the summer for students who have not been proficient in reading at the end of the school year. Our summer school programming has been in place since the summer of 2008. In 2012 - 2013, the Iowa Department of Education provided guidance with the Early Literacy Legislation on the remediation of reading for students in grades K-3 that was adopted and required for all school districts in Iowa. Norwalk Community Schools has followed the guidance with benchmarking, progress monitoring and identifying students for summer school programming. Noting there was an anticipated requirement for a summer school program for any third grade student who was not proficient in reading, we had followed the Dept. of Education's guidance on summer school requirements as we planned for summer school. Summer school students have been identified utilizing the Aimsweb data with letter sound fluency (kindergarten) and oral reading fluency (1st -3rd grade) guiding the decisions for who was invited to summer school. While all students that are classified as persistently at risk have been invited in the last 3 years, our summer school program has always been voluntary. This consistently posed a dilemma in supporting our students to become proficient readers so we had a team of teachers study the best practices for remediating reading. At the same time, the Iowa Department of Education was also doing the same.

In order to gather data regarding summer school, in the summer of 2016, the Branstad-Reynolds Administration commissioned the Iowa Reading Research Center (IRRC) to conduct this study of intensive summer reading programs (ISRPs) to investigate various aspects of providing the programs and their effects on the scores of students not reading proficiently at the end of third grade. While Norwalk Community Schools has provided a summer reading program to students in grades K-3, this study focused on third grade students only. The study identified potential challenges to implementing an intensive summer school program: (a) planning rigorous reading instruction for up to 4 hours per day, (b) hiring well-qualified personnel to teach and provide literacy coaching, (c) encouraging student participation and consistent attendance in summer school, (d) achieving appropriate class sizes, and (e) ensuring a viable means of monitoring students' reading progress. The challenges that the research study had found, mirror the same challenges that Norwalk has faced as we have implemented a summer school program.

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## **Best Practices in Remediating Reading (Continued from Page 2)**

### **Elementary Teaching and Learning**

**By: Dawn Schiro**

Following the variety of information the teachers had found, it was recommended to the School Board to not have summer school but to support students before or after school. For students who are determined to need additional reading and math support through benchmark data, progress monitoring data, and classroom-based assessments, Norwalk Community Schools will provide a before or after school reading and mathematic interventions for students in grades K-5. While a multi-tiered system of supports address the reading and math needs of a majority of our students, some students may require additional supports above and beyond the normal school day in order to meet their grade level standards. The before/after school program can address that need to support improvements in reading and math during the school year. We will be providing more specific information regarding the program at the beginning of the next school year.

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### **HR Update**

**By: Alison Wright**

#### **Need for District-Wide Substitutes**

We are always accepting applications for substitutes in a variety of areas, specifically: teachers, paraeducators, bus drivers, custodians, and nutrition workers.

We currently have an immediate need for substitute paraeducators. Substitute paraeducators assist in the classroom and work directly with students throughout the day. The rate for substitute paraeducators is \$10.95/hr, and you get to create your own schedule by choosing which assignments you take.



**If you are interested in working as a substitute in any area, apply online using the link below.**

#### **Are you interested in working for Norwalk Schools?**

We have several GREAT positions open now and throughout the year! Applying is quick and easy by visiting <http://www.norwalkschools.org/district/departments/human-resources/>. If you have any questions about our hiring process, please contact Human Resources Director Alison Wright, [awright@norwalk.k12.ia.us](mailto:awright@norwalk.k12.ia.us).

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### **Eastview 8/9 News**

**Jody Ratigan, Principal**

#### **Iowa Assessments:**

The Iowa Assessments are scheduled for Thursday, March 1st and Friday, March 2nd. Students will be taking the assessments with their TA. We are excited for our students to try their best and demonstrate the growth that has occurred over the past year. Students should bring a #2 pencil and calculator. Phones and Chromebooks are not permitted during testing. A free reading book is encouraged.

Breakfast will be served for all students in the Eastview cafeteria on the mornings of the assessments. Please encourage your student to get plenty of rest and come prepared to do his/her best.

#### **8th Grade College Visit Day:**

Eastview 8th graders will be participating in the 8th grade Career Discovery day at DMACC on Thursday, April 12th. We are excited to have our students exposed to this day of career and college exploration. More details to follow.



## Eastview 8/9 News (Continued from Page 3)

Jody Ratigan, Principal

### Warrior Cup Challenge Standings:

The Warrior Cup Challenge is a competition among grade level Advisories throughout the school year. Recent competitions included wreath decorating, portfolio completion, and super attendance. TAs are awarded points based on their place finish. Future categories will include minute to win it, conference attendance, and growth on Iowa Assessments.

9th Grade TA		8th Grade TA
After Portfolio and Attendance		After 1st Semester Attendance
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Messer</li> <li>2. Cipolla</li> <li>3. ClarkWilt</li> <li>4. Eggert</li> <li>5. Davidson</li> </ol>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dawson</li> <li>2. Maudsley</li> <li>3. Gavin</li> <li>4. Levi</li> <li>5. Armstrong</li> </ol>

### First Semester SUPER ATTENDANCE!

9th Grade				8th Grade			
Braden	Beenken	Chase	McKinney	Lucy	Buckley	Zakk	Miller
Destiny	Benavides	Harlan	Pecher	Aydon	Calvert	Kyler	Pearson
Blake	Bryan	Callan	Randall	Cade	Campbell	Claire	Pollard
Kaitlyn	Dunn	Julian	Randall	Brynn	Davis	Allison	Pothast
Sam	Eggers	Jeri	Schroeder	Emily	Davis	Neeraj	Rai
Taylor	Gassman	Asa	Schuemann	Caitlyn	Dvorak	Marin	Randall
Hannah	Goodson	Nickolas	Sexton	Cassandra	Elliot	Antonio	Reyes
Brian	Hart	Joshua	Squiers	Jackson	Elliot	Grant	Shallenberger
Zach	Hartman	Noah	Strawn	Colby	Heim	Rorie	Soper
Tyler	Isley	Cole	Tunender	Taelor	Hunter	Haylie	Spurr
Brenden	Janssen	Hayden	Webb	Olivia	Johnson	Maddux	Stout
Jayden	Lammers	Matthew	Wolfe	Grant	Kimball	Rylie	Swift
Carter	LaVelle	Robert	Wynne	Tyler	Lamb	Tanner	Truman
				Hannah	Larsen	Aidan	Voogd
				Vinny	Mauro	Tyler	West
				Allyson	McGuire	Tyson	Williams
						Kylie	Winkler

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### Golden Attitude Recipients

The staff at Eastview recognizes 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students exhibiting Golden Attitudes.

The Golden Attitude Award is presented to students who contribute to our school in a positive manner through the attitude they display and their interactions with others.

#### 8th Grade



Alli Pothast, Morgan Weeks, Jessica Erickson, Grant Kimball, and Ky Pearson

#### 9th Grade



Tristen Duncan, Dawson Livingston, Eva Hoch, Cadyn Niemeyer, and Bren Moritz



Hannah Kehoe, Reagan Holtorf, Payton Bailey, Skyler DeVan, and Tucker Beving



Colin Frederick, Dylan Buckner, Katie Johnson, Katie Dunn, and Aiden Eaton



Olivia Johnson, Rorie Soper, Vinny Mauro, Cameron Nguyen, and Kegan Trebilcock



Tobey Laurie, Tenley Schroeder, Taylor Gassman, and Hattie Dukes

## Eastview 8/9 News (Continued from Page 5)

Jody Ratigan, Principal



Recently, there have been incidents within the school day of students “just messing around.” They will state, “It’s OK. We’re friends. We’re just joking around.” However, even though they are friends, they are crossing the respect line with one another in what they say and do to each other. Be kind to one another. Golden Rule and Beyond!

Students and parents are reminded that the Eastview website has a [Quick Link available for reporting an incident or concern](#).

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### Technology Use

Eastview students are able to use their cell phones during passing periods and during lunch. There are occasions when teachers allow students to use their phones during class time for educational purposes. Even with increased opportunities to send/receive messages, inappropriate uses during class time still exist. Our practice is to confiscate the phone until the end of the day and issue a warning to the student. Multiple offenses have increased consequences and parent contact. Interestingly, students sending/reviewing text messages with parents account for some of the problems. Please advise your student to only send/review messages during passing time or lunch.

If there is an emergency and a parent needs to contact their child, we ask that parents call 981-9655 and we will contact the student. We will continue to deliver messages to students in the least disruptive manner.

### Illness Procedures

Flu season is upon us. Prior approval is needed from the school nurse and/or contact from the building secretary before a student is permitted to leave the building. This process ensures the legitimacy of the illness as well as maintains the security of monitoring students for attendance purposes. With the increased use of cell phones, occasionally students have contacted parents directly without making a connection with the nurse or main office. Please encourage your student to follow these outlined procedures in order to ensure the safety measures established by the school district.

### Passes To Leave School Early

When leaving early from school for appointments, students should obtain a pass from the office in order to be released from class. This is the student’s responsibility. If your student is unaware of a scheduled appointment, please call and we will deliver the message to your student along with a pass to be dismissed from class.

### Vehicle Traffic

Please be reminded that after school pick-up for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders is located on the north side of the high school (near band/choir) or at the Middle School. **Only bus traffic will be allowed at the 17<sup>th</sup> Street entrance from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

### **Lakewood News from Principal Jill Anderson**

The success of our students is reflective upon supportive parents. Anytime you have a question, concern or just want to share information, please contact your child's teacher. We can't fix a situation if we don't know about it and we take a tremendous amount of pride in working collaboratively with you to produce solutions! Our philosophy is to truly develop that partnership with the parents in providing a positive learning opportunity with your child.

### **Lakewood Named Model PLC School:**

Congratulations to Lakewood Elementary who was recently named a Model PLC School by All Things PLC and Solution Tree. They are one of the 13 schools in Iowa and one of 156 schools in the US that has received the award.

To receive this honor, a school must:

- Show a commitment to PLC concepts.
- Implement those concepts for at least three years.
- Present clear evidence of improved student learning.
- Explain the practices, structures, and culture of the school or district, and submit it for consideration to the PLC Review Committee using our online submission process.
- Update school or district information on the site each year to show your data continues to meet the criteria of a model PLC.

This has been a three-year process for Lakewood to get this recognition, so CONGRATULATIONS.

### **Influenza:**

With April, it means that SPRING IS HOPEFULLY JUST AROUND THE CORNER!! We all know the weather this time of year is unpredictable and requires the need to pay close attention to the forecast and how your child is dressed for school. I know students will be eager to break out the shorts, but as you know temperatures in Iowa this time of a year can fluctuate 30-40 degrees during the day. Please help to ensure that your child comes dressed appropriately to go outside for recess. It's easy to take off a coat, jacket or gloves, but difficult to keep those arms and legs warm when children are only wearing shorts and a t-shirt on a day when it is chilly in the morning or when the temperature doesn't make the expected forecast.

### **Watch DOGS:**

The Watch DOGS program has been a great initiative at both elementary schools. Watch DOGS is a nationwide program that encourages putting positive male role models in the schools. Norwalk was one of the first central Iowa district to take part. One of our school-wide goals this year is to continue with our excellence in academics. We have an amazing group of teachers that spend many hours preparing wonderful lessons for our students. However, we know that we cannot do this without the support of our tremendous parents. Every teacher appreciates all the volunteer time that parents and community members spend at Lakewood. Please look at the Norwalk school website to volunteer to be a Watch Dog.

### **Bullying at School:**

Norwalk Community School District is dedicated to providing a safe environment for students. Concerns about bullying or harassment are taken seriously and will be dealt with in a timely, and thorough manner. It is vital that parents and students work together with their child's school staff to help resolve these concerns. Please use the following link to get more information:

<https://www.norwalkschools.org/anti-bullyingharassment/>

### **End of the Year Activities:**

As a building leader, my paramount responsibility is to speak out for kids. Many times, I have to remind both teachers and parents that my responsibility is to each of the children in this building. The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development position on education affirms that "a comprehensive approach to learning recognizes that successful young people are knowledgeable, emotionally and physically healthy, motivated, inspired, engaged in the arts, prepared for work and economic self sufficiency and ready for the world beyond their own borders." I recognize the importance of assessments as diagnostic tools for improving student achievement, but also value the importance of student exhibits, demonstrations and presentations. Those activities build skills in social interaction and teach teamwork and collaborative decision making.



## Lakewood News (Continued from Page 7)

### The “extra” activities for the rest of the year are:

ICDA Honor Choir- 5th Grade Selected Students	April 5
Vocal Concert-Grade 3	April 10
Exercise Character Assembly- 4th Graders	April 12
Zoo Trip- 3rd Graders	April 20
Drake University Campus Visit- 5th Graders	April 24
MS Jazz Band at Lakewood for Assembly	April 25
Track Meet at High School	April 27
Vocal Concert Grade 5	May 1
Track Meet Rain Date Only if needed	May 4
Band Spring Concert -5th Grade	May 8
DARE Fun Day- 5th Grade	May 9
ISU Virtual Lab- 4th Grade	May 14
Cubs/Capitol- 5th Grade	May 14 and 15
DARE Graduation- 5th Grade	May 23
Honor Choir Tour- 5th Grade	May 24
TAGBLAB-3rd Grade	May 25
Talent Show- 5th Grade	May 30
Last Day Band Assembly- 5th Grade	May 31

### Moving

If you will move from the Norwalk School District this summer, please call our office, 981-1850 or the district office, 981-0676. This will help in planning for the 2018-19 school year. Thank you for your help.

### DARE Graduation- May 23

Norwalk Community 5th graders at Lakewood Elementary are taking part in the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program. This is a seventeen lesson series program, which teaches kids strategies for saying “no” to drugs and alcohol. D.A.R.E. students have held class discussions, practiced role-playing, and asked questions regarding some difficult peer pressure situations. Soon students will write personal essays regarding their decisions about drugs and alcohol and ways to resist harmful substances. Upon completion of this program, students will be honored at a graduation ceremony.

Please ask your student about their experiences in the D.A.R.E. program and start a discussion about drugs and alcohol in your homes. We hope that students will draw on information to make good decisions as they encounter junior and high school pressure. Please continue their resistance education at home!



**Congratulations to the NHS Show Choirs on an outstanding competition season!**



## News from the Buildings and Grounds Department

### Snow-Plowing Policy & Safety Tips

The Norwalk School District changed the snow plowing policy a year ago from plowing anything over 2" of snow to plowing anything over 1". However, with ANY icy/snowy conditions, we spread ice melt on all walks promptly before, after, and during school hours/events. Outside of regular school hours and activities we wait until the snow/weather event is over to clean sidewalks and plow parking for anything over 1" within the 24-hour period set by the city of Norwalk.

Remember to avoid the snow plow operator's blind spots and stay clear at least 50 feet. Please drive courteously around snow removal equipment and staff who may be shoveling. It's also best if the parking lots are clear of parked cars. If a car must remain in the parking lot, parking it in a perimeter parking spot instead of the middle of the lot makes our snow-removal efforts much more efficient.

Thank you for the cooperation, and remember to [walk like a penguin](#) when conditions are slippery.

### New Buildings and Grounds Staff

Please welcome our new custodial staff:

Oviatt - James Love

High School - Cathy Hughes and Galina Lyakisheva

### Radon Testing

Several years ago the district decided to test for radon in all our buildings above and beyond the state guidelines. They have all been tested at least once over 5 years. We are now on the second rotation for all of our buildings in the 5-year retest. The exception to testing for radon is that the pre-school areas need to be tested every 2 years. This year Lakewood was done and so were the pre-school areas at Oviatt. When we had both of these tested the results came in below 3 pCi/l. The level recommended for mitigation is anything above 4 pCi/l. Look for the results on the website under Buildings and Grounds in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me.

Richard Sleeth  
Buildings and Grounds Director  
Norwalk Schools  
Office-515-981-0917  
Fax-515-981-0918  
[rsleeth@norwalk.k12.ia.us](mailto:rsleeth@norwalk.k12.ia.us)



Thank you to the Knights of Columbus from St. John the Apostle Catholic Church for donating to the Norwalk Nutrition Department. The money will be applied to unpaid lunch balances.

## **News from the Nutrition Department**

The Nutrition Department will celebrate National School Breakfast Week March 5-9. As part of the kick-off for that week of celebration, the Nutrition Department will also be offering a free breakfast meal to all students in the district before school on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> as students prepare to take the Iowa Assessments.

### **Meal Prices for the 2017-18 School Year**

Student Breakfast Meal \$1.75  
Elementary Lunch Meal \$2.60  
Secondary Lunch Meal \$2.70  
Milk \$.50

### **Fruit for Friends**

As an effort to minimize food waste and to combat hunger, the Nutrition Department began providing a sharing cart at the Eastview Cafeteria for secondary students. Students who have uneaten fresh fruit can place their fruit in the sharing pan to provide an additional serving to their peers for no charge. Any uneaten food at the end of lunch is then donated.

### **Breakfast**

Breakfast is offered each morning before school beginning at 7:30 am. The Nutrition Department offers a hot breakfast meal each day, in addition to a cold breakfast meal option at both the elementary and secondary levels. In an effort to minimize waste, we cannot guarantee the hot option will last until the bell rings for all students. However, there will always be plenty of cold options to ensure your student does not go to class hungry and receives a nutritious breakfast.

### **Cafeteria Balances**

The Nutrition Department would like to remind parents that meal accounts are to be supplied with funds prior to lunch or breakfast purchases. Please register for cafeteria balance alerts if you have not yet done so at [www.schoolcafe.com](http://www.schoolcafe.com). **If you have a student in Middle School, please select Norwalk High School as the school site when registering.** If you have any questions, or need assistance at any time, please contact the Nutrition Department at 981-9876.

According to Board Policy, students in grades 8-12 are only allowed to charge \$-5.00. If your child's account has exceeded this amount, please send cash with your student or provide an alternative lunch. In addition, negative lunch accounts for all students are subject to collections.

If you need meal assistance, you may apply any time throughout the school year at [www.schoolmealapp.com](http://www.schoolmealapp.com) or you may print and fill out a paper application available on the district homepage under the nutrition tab or you may obtain an application at any school office.

### **Lunch Menus**

Printed lunch menus are sent home with all elementary students. Both elementary and secondary lunch menus can be found on the District homepage under the Parent tab/Nutrition/Lunch Menus or

<http://www.norwalkschools.org/district/departments/nutrition/lunch-menus/>