

## Homedale School District #370

**TO:** Board of Trustees; Superintendent Rob Sauer

**FROM:** Amy Winters, HMS Principal

**DATE:** December 8, 2014

**RE:** Board of Trustees Report

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### **November Enrollment**

Gr 5 = 94      Gr 6 = 90      Gr 7 = 92      Gr 8 = 99      Total: 375

### **Writing Awards**

Mrs. Warren has her 6<sup>th</sup> grade social studies students write an essay for the Disabled American Veterans Contest each year. The following are this year's winners:

1<sup>st</sup> place = John Breshears won \$30

2<sup>nd</sup> place = Emma Parker won \$20

3<sup>rd</sup> place = Thomas Symms won \$10

Jim Burgess Award for excellence in writing conventions = MaKenna DeWitt won \$40

DAV member, Dan Pugmire, was brought to tears by several of our students' essays so he donated a \$50 brick for the HMS 6<sup>th</sup> grade class to the Caldwell Disabled Veterans' Garden on West Belmont Street in Caldwell.

### **November Student Support Day**

We invited 51 students to attend due to having a failing grade in class and told students with D's to attend if they were able to get a ride. 82 students attended.

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

HMS had 181 students represented by parents at second quarter conferences. We have not had these in several years, but it seems to be a very good turnout. Teachers contacted all students with failing grades and scheduled a specific time to meet with their parents. Only 17 of those students did not show. We were unable to reach some of the families because of outdated contact information; some parents were working at the time; and others just did not participate. The principal and SRO are scheduling home visits with these students' families prior to the end of the semester.

### **Book Fair**

Jamie Kraupp organized and managed the first ever Book Fair at HMS and did a fantastic job. The school sold \$2,138.75 worth of books in which our library will receive \$855.50 (40%) in Scholastic Bucks to purchase new books for the library!

### **HMS Football Program**

Head Coach Tony Uranga donated his entire coaching stipend back to HMS to purchase new equipment for next year's team. His donation was for \$1,588.

### **Internships**

Mrs. Garrett's interns are Megan Lowder from NNU and Tony Taramasco from Capella University.

**Updated Spelling Data**

| Grade           | Late 1 <sup>st</sup> grade – Mid 4 <sup>th</sup> grade |                    |                         | Upper Elementary – Middle School |                           |                         |
|-----------------|--|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
|                 | Within Word Early                                      | Within Word Middle | Within Word Late        | Suffixes & Affixes Early         | Suffixes & Affixes Middle | Suffixes & Affixes Late |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | 0%   | 3%                 | At grade level or above |                                  |                           |                         |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> | 1%   | 1%                 | 4%                      | At grade level or above          |                           |                         |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> | 0%   | 0%                 | 4%                      | 4%                               | At grade level or above   |                         |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> | 0%   | 1%                 | 2%                      | 1%                               | 0%                        | At or above             |

After retesting the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders with the easier test, the following percentage of students need spelling remediation. The total number of students is 22.

**Reading Dogs**

Kim Wilson has been bringing her dog to sit with students who are struggling to read. Students love this opportunity as the dog is nonjudgmental and very friendly. It has been an excellent experience and we hope to find more community members willing to bring in their dogs. Mrs. Garrett is organizing these visits.



**Safe Schools**

Before Thanksgiving break Officer McFetridge brought in three handlers and their drug dogs to search the building. Fifth graders were not included but we are planning an informational assembly in the spring with IDFY members and the trainers. Sixth grade got to watch what the dogs do when they are working and ask the officers questions. All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms were searched. Since the middle school began IDFY we have had NO drug, alcohol, or tobacco issues at HMS!

**Upcoming Events**

- Dec. 10 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to view Nutcracker Jr. at Jewitt Auditorium
- Dec. 11 HMS/HHS Music Concert at HMS, 7:00 pm
- Dec. 12 Student Support Day and Final Exam Prep
- Dec. 15 Art Show for parents of students in Mrs. Johnson’s art classes
- Dec. 16 7<sup>th</sup> period final exam
- Dec. 17 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> period final exams; 7/8<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dance
- Dec. 18 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> period final exams; 5/6<sup>th</sup> Christmas Parties

## Curriculum and Assessment Update

### **District Planning**

HES and HMS teachers are using their collaboration times during school hours and on Student Support Fridays to continue building CCSS aligned units of instruction in Language Arts and Mathematics. Although it seems to be a slow process, teachers are seeing growth in student learning based on pre- and post-test data for each unit. One challenge teachers are facing is becoming comfortable with not “covering” as much material as they have in the past.

HHS continues working toward their goal of funding as many Chromebooks as possible for student use in the classroom.

Mr. Sauer is working with the Math Director at the State Department of Education (SDE) to review potential CCSS aligned math curriculum as possible supplemental or replacement texts for next year.

### **State SBAC Field Test Results**

The SDE reports that 80% of all 3-11<sup>th</sup> graders who field tested last year indicated the questions on the test were “pretty hard.” The state is working toward providing schools with cutoff scores for this baseline, data-gathering year.

## AVID Update

### **HMS**

Stacey VanHuerke, Western Division Regional Coordinator, visited HMS to review the school’s implementation process and assist with planning next steps. She was very impressed with both elective teachers (Johnson and Freelove) and the work they have done in such short time since the July training. She also met with AVID students, checked their binder progress, and observed in non-AVID-elective-but-those-who-were-trained-in-AVID-strategies teachers’ classrooms.

Kelly Schamber, Jamie Freelove, Shannon Johnson, and Amy Winters attended an AVID elective training class hosted at Vallivue High School. They will be presenting what they learned during the January staff development day.

### **District Director Training**

Amy Winters attended the District Director training hosted by Vallivue School District and observed AVID elementary curriculum and best practices in 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms (Terri Vasquez attended also) at Desert Sage Elementary and secondary curriculum and best practices in 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms at Sage Valley Middle School. The District Director, principals, and elective teachers in the Vallivue District have offered to provide any training and additional support to our district cost free.

### **HES**

Terri Vasquez, Matt Holtry, Amy Winters, and the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers will be visiting both Desert Sage and Sage Valley Dec. 10 to observe and begin planning for next summer’s training for 2015-16 implementation.