



Meridian Public Schools

"The Hoof Print" ~ Home of the Mustangs

Newsletter

www.meridianmustangs.org

February, 2012

NEWSLETTER: FEBRUARY, 2012



"Super Stuff"

from Mr. Gade

February, as you can tell by this newsletter, is busy and full of information. February may be the shortest month of the calendar, even longer this year than usual, but just as busy as months with 30 and 31 days. We have included information this month that will affect the future. Significant dates and information in this newsletter include: Kindergarten and Pre-School enrollment birthday date change, Kindergarten Early Enrollment petition, and Option Enrollment. Please double check the calendar of activities and special dates throughout the newsletter, don't short-change yourself. Enjoy the month, long on activities and love, and BE SOMEONE'S VALENTINE.

BUSY – BUSY – BUSY

During this month, Meridian students will participate in District and possibly State Wrestling, Sub-District and possibly District and then State Basketball (early March), Speech meets including Crossroads Conference Speech at Meridian on February 22 (no school), Conference Quiz Bowl, County Spelling Bee, and State Cheer and Dance. Meridian parents will be involved in Parent-Teacher Conferences on February 8th, and the above listed events. It is amazing how dedicated our students and parents are to education, as the many above listed activities will not interfere with their focus on classroom learning.

OPTION ENROLLMENT

This is a reminder to parents and students who wish to option into Meridian Public Schools for the 2012-2013 school year. Parents must fill out Form NDE 25-010 and submit it to the Option School District by March 15, of the prior school year. After March 15, Section 2 of the application must be completed by the resident school district.

Meridian Public Schools has much to offer students in the areas of academics, fine arts, and extracurricular activities. We have an excellent student to teacher ratio and offer a great variety of learning experiences for every student. We have laptops for all students in grades 7 – 12. We provide Distance Learning classes, Career Academy classes, and the Virtual High School Learning opportunity along with our in-house academic curriculum. College credit courses are also available to Meridian students. Anyone interested in optioning their child into the district are encouraged and welcome to contact our offices and arrange a visit to the school.

MERIDIAN COMMUNITY FITNESS CENTER

The roof is getting put on and the insides are getting some attention. The electricians, security systems, and HVAC contractors will be working inside, and a little outside, during late January and early February. Continue to watch the Meridian Community Fitness Center progress and take shape on our Meridian Public Schools website (www.meridianmustangs.org).

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITIONS

Nebraska designated January 22-28 as Nebraska School Board Recognition Week. Thank you for taking time and appreciating our Meridian Board of Education – Gary Baxa, Chad Frank, Brian Jackson, Larry Miller, Gary Mussman, and Dwayne Wolfe.

At the regular January meeting, the Board elected officers and appointed committees for the 2012 year. Officers elected for 2012: President- Gary Baxa; Vice-President- Gary Mussman; Secretary- Dwayne Wolfe; Treasurer- Larry Miller
Meridian Board of Education Standing Committees for 2012:

AMERICANISM:

Chad Frank, Brian Jackson, Gary Baxa

BUILDING, GROUNDS &

TRANSPORTATION:

Larry Miller, Gary Mussman,

Dwayne Wolfe

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION:

Chad Frank, Gary Mussman,

Brian Jackson

NEGOTIATIONS:

Gary Baxa, Larry Miller, Dwayne Wolfe

HAVE A SUPER YEAR

and a



Meridian Board of Education

District 48-0303

January 16, 2012

Regular Meeting

The Meridian Public School Board of Education met on Monday January 16, 2012, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal- News.

President Mussman called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented. Members present were Baxa, Wolfe, Miller, Jackson, Frank, and Mussman also present were Supt. Gade and Principal Kelley.

Baxa moved and Frank seconded to change the consent agenda. Motion carried 6-0.

President Mussman turned the meeting over to Supt. Gade to hold election of the 2012 President.

Mussman moved and Wolfe seconded to nominate Mr. Baxa for President, Jackson moved and Miller seconded to nominate Mr. Frank for President. Ballet vote was taken-Mr. Baxa was elected President.

Miller moved and Frank seconded to nominate Mr. Mussman for Vice-President. President Baxa called for a unanimous vote. Motion carried 5-1.

Mussman moved and Frank seconded to nominate Mr. Miller for Treasurer. President Baxa called for a unanimous vote. Motion carried 6-0.



Jackson moved and Frank seconded to nominate Mr. Wolfe for Board Secretary. President Baxa called for a unanimous vote. Motion carried 6-0.

Standing Committees are as follows:
Americanism – Jackson and Frank
Curriculum – Frank
Negotiations – Wolfe, Baxa and Miller
Buildings/Grounds and Transportation – Mussman, Wolfe and Miller

Miller moved and Wolfe seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Minutes of the December 19, Regular Meeting.
2. District Financial Report
3. Activity Fund Report
4. Hot Lunch Report
5. Bills

Motion carried 6-0.

Mussman moved and Miller seconded to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Southeast Nebraska PowerSchool. Motion carried 6-0.

Wolfe moved and Frank seconded to approve Meridian Education Association as the sole bargaining unit for certified staff for the 2013-2014 school year. Motion carried 6-0.

Jackson moved and Mussman seconded to approve the 2012-2013 School Calendar. Motion carried 6-0.

Wolfe moved and Miller seconded to approve joining Teammates and begin the mentoring program in the fall of 2012. Motion carried 6-0.

Discussion was held on new padding for the east side of the gym.

Principal Kelley reported on the following:

1. Update on NESAs Testing
2. Bullying Policy

Supt. Gade reported on the following:

1. Coaches/Sponsors Handbook
2. MEA has met and selected negotiators, Lorrie Hofstetter, Renee Henry, Mary Houchin and Amanda Paredes.
3. ESU #5 in Beatrice is hosting a meeting on Wednesday, February 8, at 7:00 p.m. to address Technology Bonds.

4. Meridian Public School has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for a grant under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation program.

The board discussed and filled out evaluation papers on Supt. Gade.

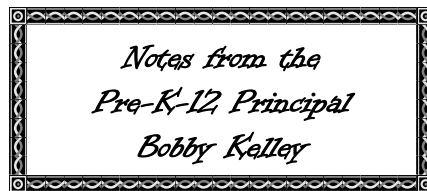
Mussman moved and Wolfe seconded to go into closed session at 8:24 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Miller moved and Mussman moved to come out of closed session at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education was scheduled for February 20, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.

Wolfe moved and Frank seconded to adjourn at 8:53 p.m.

Dwayne Wolfe,
Secretary Meridian District # 48-0303



Parent-Teacher Conferences

On February 8th, we will be holding Parent-Teacher conferences from 1:00-9:00 p.m. There will be no school for students the day of conferences. During conferences in the fall, we had 57% of our parents attend. I would like to encourage all parents to come visit with your child's teachers to discuss their progress within their classes. Plus if you attend conference's you will receive a **free cup of coffee and a cookie!!**

NWEA Maps Testing

Well, we have just finished up our second round of Maps testing on January 27th, and it looks as if the students have done an excellent job of reaching their goals they had set after the first round of testing. By the way, if you are wondering what your child's test scores were then attend Parent-Teacher conferences to visit with your child's teacher about their scores and

goals!! **Yet another reason to attend Parent-Teacher Conferences!**

Teachers Dedication

I would like to let everyone know what great teachers that Meridian Public Schools has on staff! The reason I am saying this is because, like I mentioned above, our test scores are continuing to improve and it's because of the dedication and innovation of our teachers! So the next time you see a teacher around town or during **Parent-Teacher Conferences** thank them for their hard-work and dedication to your children. I know I am extremely proud to lead this great group of teachers!!!

NSAA Winter Sports Districts

As we come closer to the end of the winter sports seasons, it is time to announce this year's dates and sites for the NSAA Sub-District and District competitions to qualify for the state tournaments. Our teams will participate in the following sub districts: the wrestlers will travel to Central Community College in Columbus for their matches on February 10th, and 11th. The girls basketball team will play their sub-district at Fairbury High School on February 14th, and 16th. Finally, the boys will play their sub-district on February 21st, and 23rd, also at Fairbury High School. Good luck to all three sports teams as they finish their year strong during district competition!

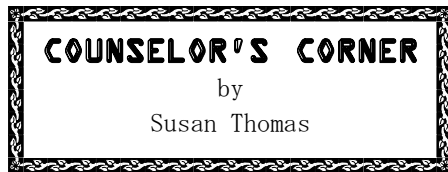
Important Dates for February

- Feb. 8th** Parent-Teacher Conferences 1:00-9:00 p.m. **NO SCHOOL**
- Feb. 10th-11th** District Wrestling @ Cross County
- Feb. 11th** Mustang Speech Invite
- Feb. 13th** Jefferson County Spelling Bee (Meridian is Hosting)
- Feb. 14th & 16th** Girls Basketball Sub-Districts
- Feb. 17th-18th** NSIAAA Cheer and Dance Competition
- Feb. 16th-18th** State Wrestling @ Omaha
- Feb. 21st & 23rd** Boys Basketball Sub-Districts
- Feb. 22nd** CRC Speech Contest @ Meridian (No School)



Our Volunteer Help is Awesome!

As the winter sport season and activities come to a close, it is very fitting and proper to extend a big "THANK YOU" to all of our volunteers who helped Meridian in so many ways in the gym, at the ticket table, in the concession stands, fixing soup suppers...the list goes on and on as to how you unselfishly help our school with your volunteer help. Though we probably don't always show it... JUST KNOW THAT WE DO APPRECIATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT AND HELP WITH ALL OUR ACTIVITIES!!! You are simply AWESOME!



Preparation for College and Career:

Our mission here at Meridian includes producing graduates who have developed their talents and learning capabilities to become responsible and productive citizens. The Nebraska Standards for Career Ready Practice were unanimously adopted by the Nebraska State Board of Education on December 8, 2011. They describe skills and knowledge that educators at all levels, K-12, should seek to develop in their students. They are based on long standing practices and proficiencies taught in career education and were derived from extensive input from business and industry representatives. The eleven standards are:

1. Apply appropriate academic and technical skills
2. Communicate effectively and appropriately
3. Contribute to employer and community success
4. Make sense of problems and perseveres in solving them
5. Use critical thinking
6. Demonstrate innovation and creativity
7. Model ethical leadership and effective management
8. Work productively in teams and demonstrates cultural competency
9. Utilize technology
10. Manage personal career development

11. Attend to personal and financial well-being

Junior High Guidance:

We have prepared a four-year plan in 8th grade, based on personal interests, skills and abilities. We are exploring the areas of Architecture and Construction and will soon be delving into the world of Health Care. Seventh grade will begin Project Alert, which teaches resistance skills to drinking, smoking and other risky behaviors.

High School Guidance:

Volunteerism is growing here at Meridian. Thirteen high school mentors are meeting with elementary students to build social skills and engage them in school. Other Senior high students serve as tutors to their peers during the READ time.

Students have already pre-registered to indicate their class choices for next year. Check the website to see a list of classes we offer. We are offering on-line, distance learning classes, and Career Academy at both the high school and college level through Southeast Community College and other higher educational institution-some at reduces tuition rates. These classes require the student to be motivated, responsible and autonomous in their work habits

Career Academies:

For the last three years, Southeast Community College and ten school districts in Gage, Jefferson and Thayer counties have partnered to provide classes in health sciences, agriculture, education and business marketing and management. Students will receive dual credit, explore a career field, and get a first-hand look at what goes on in the real world. Students will participate in tours, job shadows, and hear speakers. SCC Faculty will teach the classes. The schedule for each Academy varies, depending on the needs of the classes. There is no cost to the student, except for books, as the Meridian School district and SCC will pick up the cost. Those students who have indicated an interest in one of these career academies will be

encouraged to apply.

Juniors

Juniors are now taking the John Baylor ACT Prep class three times a week. They should register by March 9, 2012, for the April 14, 2012 ACT. The next ACT test will be June 9 with a May 4 deadline. Check deadlines for registration with Mrs. Thomas when you pick up a practice test. Check to see if you qualify for a fee waiver. You should take the ACT test at least once during your Junior year.

You are allowed two days to visit colleges during your senior year and juniors are allowed one visit. **Juniors, it is time to set up some college visits.**

Seniors:

NEW -The university system will cover all tuition for those students who qualify for Pell grants with a program called Collegeboundnebraska, so it is important to check to see if your student qualifies. Another scholarship based on financial need is the Susan Buffet scholarship, which is being expanded to cover more students who show promise and have financial need for 2012-2013. Go to www.buffetscholarships.org. If you have questions, call Mrs. Thomas at school.

Local scholarship information will be e-mailed to all Seniors and put on the web site the first part of February. They are due at various times after March 31st. We appreciate the generosity of the community members who provide these scholarships, which will be awarded at graduation. With the down-turn in the economy and increasing college costs, these scholarships will be especially appreciated. **If any patron or group would like to provide a new scholarship in memory of a special person, for a particular major or an ideal,** please call me at school (446-7265)and I will help you set it up.

It is time to update your resume to have it ready for scholarships. Seniors, ask for letters of recommendation several weeks in advance to allow busy teachers time to complete them carefully. Be sure to thank them for their time.

It's FAFSA Time!

If you're a college-bound senior, you



must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to apply for state, federal and college-based financial aid. It's important that you submit the form before your college's FAFSA priority date because financial aid is awarded first-come, first-served. To learn your college's priority date, contact the college's financial aid office. Follow these steps to complete the FAFSA:

Request a PIN Request a Personal Identification Number (PIN) for you and one for a parent at pin.ed.gov.

Complete your taxes early as the FAFSA requires current tax information. Approximately two weeks after you and your parents electronically file your tax forms, your IRS data will be available to retrieve and transfer into your FAFSA.

Gather these student and parent items:

- 2011 federal income tax forms and, if applicable, Schedule K-1 (Form 1065)
- 2011 W-2 forms
- Student's driver's license number
- Social Security numbers
- Birth dates
- Date parents were married, separated, divorced or widowed
- Current cash, savings and checking account balances
- Current investment values (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, CDs, etc.) excluding your home and retirement accounts
- Value of business (if more than 100 employees)
- Value of investment farm (Do not include the value of a family farm that you or your parents live on and operate).
- 2011 child support (paid and/or received)
- 2011 Workers' Compensation
- Other untaxed income in 2011 such as housing/food/living allowances for military and clergy
- Alien Registration Number for eligible non-citizens

Be prepared to answer the following

FAFSA question: Did you or anyone in your household receive any of the following federal benefits?

- Supplemental Security Income
- Food Stamps
- TANF
- Free or Reduced Price Lunch
- WIC

Complete and file the FAFSA at fafsa.gov. If you're filing the FAFSA for the first time and would like *free* personal help, contact EducationQuest at Kearney (800-666-3721), Lincoln (800-303-3745), or Omaha (888-357-6300). Call *now* as appointments for January and February are quickly filling up. Visit the "[FAFSA Tools](#)" section at EducationQuest.org where you'll find:

- **College Funding Estimator**
- **FAFSA Demo**
- **"FAFSA Made Easy" video**
- **FAFSA Podcasts**
- **FAFSA Checklist**
- **FAFSA Tutorial**

Admission Requirements

Changes are continually being made to state laws, which in turn, effects our local school policies. The following is the Board approved policy on admission requirements for Kindergarten observed by Meridian Public Schools.

Minimum Age:

A child shall be eligible for admission into kindergarten at the beginning of the school year if the child is five years of age or will be **five years of age on or before July 31, of the calendar year in which the school year** for which the child is seeking admission begins. The Meridian Public Schools Board of Education may admit a child who will reach the age of five years on or after August 1, and on or before October 15, of such school year if the parent or guardian requests such entrance and provides an affidavit stating (i) the child attended kindergarten in another jurisdiction in the current school year; (ii) the family anticipates a relocation to another jurisdiction that would allow admission within the current year; or (iii) the child has demonstrated through a

recognized assessment procedure approved by the Meridian Public Schools Board of Education that the child is capable of carrying the work of Kindergarten.

Early Admission to Kindergarten:

The following assessment procedure for determining if a child is capable of carrying the work of kindergarten is approved and shall be made available to interested person:

Early kindergarten enrollment exceptions may be made for younger children who are intellectually advanced. At a minimum, eligibility for the admission shall be based upon an analysis of the child's: (1) mental ability, (2) emotional/social development, (3) pre-academic skills, and (4) fine motor skills.

The kindergarten early entrance assessment procedures are designed to identify and place in kindergarten those children who:

- a. Will turn 5 years of age between August 1, and October 15;
- b. Are deemed by parents or guardians as being intellectually advanced and likely to benefit from advanced grade placement; and
- c. Are selected on the basis of testing by professionals trained and certified to administer the assessments that will produce evidence of strength in:
 1. Mental ability defined as scoring 84th percentile or above on a standardized assessment of cognitive ability such as the Wechsler Pre Primary Scale of Intelligence III, or the Stanford -Binet V;
 2. A test of emotional/social development such as the Behavior Assessment System for Children, Second Edition (BASC-2);
 3. 75th percentile or greater on a test of pre-academic skills such as the Woodcock Johnson III; and
 4. A test of fine motor ability, scoring 75th percentile or above on a standardized measurement such as the Beery VMI.



The assessments shall be administered by reputable professionals, approved by the Superintendent or designee, at the expense of the parents or guardians, with the results of such assessments submitted to the School District.

The decision regarding early entrance to kindergarten requires careful consideration of all factors that affect kindergarten success with final determination to be made based on the recommendation of the District Evaluation Team, to be composed of such individuals as the Superintendent or designee determined appropriate. The academic, social, and emotional readiness, as well as the student's physical development and well-being, must be weighed with institutional factors also considered. Sound decision making in the area of early entrance to kindergarten is dependent upon reliable information regarding a student's readiness and a thoughtful balancing of the myriad of factors implicated by the decision. Parents will be notified in writing of the results of the Early Kindergarten Entrance assessment and the determination of the District Evaluation Team in a timely fashion; not to exceed three weeks after the assessments are completed.

Families who seek early admission of their child into kindergarten must obtain an *Early Entrance to Kindergarten Packet* from the Meridian Public Schools' administration offices.

Parents must fill out the early entrance application forms, which include a parent questionnaire and obtain and attach a reference letter from someone who is well acquainted with the child but not a relative of the child. The person providing this reference should know the child well enough that they can speak with some expertise about the child's attributes and abilities. The reference letter should indicate whether this person recommends the child be schooled with children who will be a year older than the child and, if so, the evidence this person has concerning the child's mental ability, fine and gross motor ability, visual and auditory discrimination, emotional/social development, and communication skills.

Suggestions for this reference letter are a preschool teacher, a Sunday school teacher, a day-care provider, or a physician.

The assessment request, reference letter and parent questionnaire must be completed and returned to the District no later than **March 15th** of the spring before fall enrollment to allow summer assessment to be completed.

Decisions regarding early kindergarten entrance must include consideration of the above and shall not be made based on race, color, gender, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, age disability, or sexual orientation of the child or the child's parents or guardians. Institutional factors, such as capacity, may also be considered.

DRIVER'S EDUCATION

Mr. Terry Smith has agreed to teach the Driver's Education class offered by the Nebraska Safety Council at Meridian High School this summer. The requirements, set by the Nebraska Safety Council, for the Driver's Education Class are 20 hours of classroom study, along with 5 hours "behind the wheel" instruction. In order to hold this course at Meridian a **minimum** of ten (10) students will need to participate. We are offering this opportunity to Meridian students first, however, if less than ten (10) people attending Meridian sign up, we will extend our offer to other area students.

As of this printing, Mr. Smith has not received notice of the cost for participation (the cost for 2011 was \$280.00). The cost, as well as the dates and times for the course will be set at a later date. If you have any questions, or would like to enroll, please contact Mr. Smith or Meridian High School at (402) 446-7265.

ELEMENTARY RED WHEEL™ FUNDRAISER

The elementary students (Pre-K through 6th grade) will be conducting a Red Wheel Fundraising™ campaign starting on Monday, February 13th, through

Friday, February 24th, with a delivery date of Thursday, February 29th, 2012. Packets will be sent home with each of the students so they will be able sell Red Wheel™ products. The money earned from this campaign will help buy new Pre-K playground equipment and a chain-link fence. We are working toward providing age appropriate activities and meeting some state guidelines for our new Pre-K program. Please help and encourage your child to sell these locally manufactured products.

DECEMBER EXCESSIVE ABSENTEEISM

The December report sent in to the state reflects the following information: Students missing more than 2 full days in the month of December - Grades K-6 - 13, Grades 7-12 - 8 resulting in a total of 21 students. (note: last year's December count was 9). Of these 21 students, 16 excuses were related to "medical"- whether illness, dentist-doctor appointments, hospitalization, head lice, etc.; 9 excuses were marked "other" which included funeral, helping at home, short term suspension, license, etc.; and 1 student was marked expelled. Of these absences, 3 students did not bring a note or a phone call was not made stating the reason of the absences. **Again, it is very important the school be notified of all absences as if there is a question of credits to be given, the reason given is the number one factor to be considered. If you see a doctor or are hospitalized, a doctor / dentist note if very useful in this situation.**

The total for missing more than eight days since the beginning of school was reported as: Grades K-6 – 7 students and Grades 7-12 – 14 students making a total of 21 (note: last year's 8 days plus report showed 10 missing more than 8 days since the start of school).





CHEERLEADING TRY-OUTS

Due to busy schedules and a need to order uniforms early, try-outs for the 2012-2013 Cheer Squad will be held in **March**. The date and time will be announced at a later date.

Phone Request

The new telephone system is working nicely. If you need to speak with Kathy Houser, Mr. Kelley, or Mrs. DeWald please go to extension #2. FYI...If you need to speak with one of the above and call between 7:45 and 8:15 a.m., and 11:45 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., please leave a message as Kathy is usually in the lunchroom at those times. If you need immediate assistance from Kathy, Mr. Kelley, or Mrs. DeWald during those times, press extension #1 and Trish will help you. The office truly appreciates your calling in and leaving a message if your child is sick or not going to be in school that day. Remember, to speak with Kathy Houser, Mr. Kelley, or Mrs. DeWald the telephone number is 402-446-7265 ext. 2. If no one answers, just leave a message and Kathy will take care of the message as soon as possible.

COMMUNITY FITNESS

With the new community fitness center going up, we would like to know if anyone is interested in getting a weight loss program started at the school. We could start any time and move into the fitness center when it is completed. Please email khouser@esu6.org or call the school at 446-7265 ext. 2 if you are interested.

STUCO NEWS

Welcome one and all to 2012! I hope that all of my readers had a very safe and merry holiday season! Throughout this blustering season of up and down weather, the Meridian Student Council is still hard at work, like always.

During the month of January, the council has done many things, yet the most important is going to the District StuCo Convention at Fairbury High School. Meridian will help host the convention along with Tri-County and

Dorchester. The theme for this year's District convention is "Super Heroes". Which is a topic well chosen because as council members, we must create a good environment for the rest of the community while still having fun! Meridian will host a few mini-sessions during the convention. These mini-sessions include: Latin Dancing which will be hosted by Yesi Nunez, Ricky Nunez, Crystal Nunez, and myself and Cupcake Decorating: hosted by Sara Jo Gurley, Kimberly Gurley, and Becca Taylor. These mini-sessions will go great and we hope will be a ton of fun!

The council also has done some important fundraising for the convention. During home basketball games, the council let people shoot free throws for \$1 during halftime. If they were able to sink the free throw, they got a two liter bottle of pop. The donations raised will go toward Make-A-Wish. An additional council fundraiser will be the selling of carnations (\$2) and heart necklaces (\$1) to be delivered to Meridian students on Valentine's Day. Contact the school by February 1st, if you would like to buy either.

So as you wake up with shorts and a t-shirt on and fall asleep in sweatpants and a sweatshirt (oh wonderful Nebraska weather!) remember that your Meridian Student Council is still hard at work no matter what the weather is like.

Signing off, Lupe Dimas
Student Council Public Relations

MONSANTO GRANT

The philanthropic arm of Monsanto Company, Monsanto Fund, is launching America's Farmers Grow Rural Education to aid rural school districts by providing \$10,000 and \$25,000 grants in 1,245 counties across 39 states. The program gives farmers the opportunity to nominate a public school district in their rural community to compete for a grant.

The nomination period runs from January 6th, through April 15th, 2012.

Nominated school districts then submit an application for either a \$10,000 or \$25,000 grant to support a math and/or science educational program by April 30th, 2012. An applicant for a \$10,000 grant will compete against other school districts that are located in the USDA-appointed Crop Reporting District (CRDs with fewer than 5 eligible school districts will compete against each other for a single grant). Meridian's CRD contains the following counties: Clay, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Nemaha, Nuckolls, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, Saline, and Thayer. A school district applying for a \$25,000 grant will compete against schools located in its state or designated region.

The Monsanto Fund will award 177 \$10,000 grants and 22 grants of \$25,000. Grants will be awarded based on merit, need and **community support**. Visit growruraleducation.com to vote for Meridian and see a complete list of eligible states and regions.

Mini-Mustangs Basketball

Over the past month, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders have been learning drills and practicing their skills in the game of basketball. To show off their hard work, the students will be playing during the half-time of the varsity games **Friday, February 3rd**. First and Second Graders will play during the half-time of the girls' varsity game and the Third and Fourth Graders will play during half-time of the boys' varsity game. Please come out this night to support your Mustangs and Mini-Mustangs basketball teams!

THANK YOU

M-PIE would like to extend a sincere "thanks" to all who donated food items for the soup supper and to ALL the Meridian and Exeter-Milligan fans for their strong support. We couldn't have done it without you! Thank you.





Meridian Partners-In-Education January 11th, 2012

Officers: President-Angie Pribyl, Vice President-Jamie Niederklein, Secretary-Kathy Houser, Treasurer-Deb Schwisow

Email account-MeridianMPIE@gmail.com

Web page-www.meridianmustangs.org

The Meridian Partners In Education met on Wednesday, January 11th, 2012, in the Meridian Conference Room. Kathy Houser asked to meet at 6:30 instead of 7:00 that night due to her having another meeting. The meeting was called to order by president, Angie Pribyl at 6:30 p.m.. Other members present were Kathy Houser, Deb Schwisow, Trish Endorf, Ramona Daniels, Wendee Sobotka, Kristi Most, Luann Jackson, Jamie Niederklein, Natalie Meyer, Michelle Schultz, and Staci VanWesten. Mr. Gade was also in attendance.

Minutes of the November meeting were read and approved as read. Treasurer gave a report of a January balance of \$3,403.99. Bills paid were: Shari Bachle-\$18.00, Dawgs Hut-\$253.06, Uhl's-\$605.09, Norder Supply-\$27.41, and Chris Dunker- \$50.00. Deposits made were: Apparel -\$1,615.00, Sports Buttons-\$12.00, Cookbooks-\$25.00, Food Raffle- \$133.50. Profits at this time: Apparel -\$720.29, sports buttons-\$141.82. A motion was made by LuAnn and second by Trish to approve the treasurer report. Outstanding bills were \$1,000 smart board payable to the school, and \$186.18 for stadium seats.

Communications were called.

Old Business was called.

1. Box Tops-6th graders were the winners for the month of December. Goal set at \$550.00
2. Dec. 2nd Raffle-Profit \$133.50
3. Report on Apparel Sale – still have a lot of items left
4. Report on Teacher Appreciation Week-gave gold fish crackers and water with a saying.

New Business was called.

1. Soup Supper-everything is a go. Kathy Houser suggested trying a roaster of potato soup this year along with the three roasters of

chili and the three roasters of chicken noodle. She would donate it. Just about all items will be donated this year. A special thank you to the Coop for donating cups and silverware. Also a special thank you for all food donations and workers.

2. Education Research-Natalie reported. Suggested doing the Raptor Recovery.
3. Scholarship Committee is Kristi Most, Deb Schwisow, and Staci VanWesten. \$600.00 will be given with determination by the committee.
4. Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held Febr. 8th. Decided on soup if any was left from the soup supper. Staci and Deb will furnish a relish tray.
5. National Teacher Appreciation Week-May 1st-4th-Angie Pribyl will be in charge.
6. Elementary track meet to receive a freeze pop again this year.

2011-2012 M-PIE Up-coming Schedule:

Last meeting April 25th, 2012 with election of officers. Scholarships will be due April 15th and scholarship committee will meet ahead of the meeting time to determine winners.

Staci made a motion to adjourn with Patty seconding it. Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Kathy Houser, Secretary



Congratulations go out to the 6th grade class for earning "Dollar" for the month of January by turning in the most box tops for the months of November and December. Keep up the GREAT work!

Also, our incentives are back...the class that turns in the most box tops now through April 1st will win their very own PIZZA P-A-R-T-Y!! Pizza

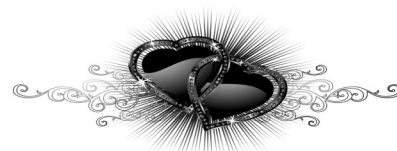
Hut pizza will be served for lunch on a date that works for that class' teacher following that April 1st date. Good luck and may the hardest "Earning" class win!!

We would like to remind you to use the Box Tops website at <http://www.boxtops4education.com> for all of your online ordering needs. By shopping through the Market Place on this site, you can earn money for your school in the comforts of your own home. Stores such as Wal-Mart, Target, Justice, Barnes and Noble, Kohls, NIKE and many more will match up to 5 cents for each \$10.00 spent when purchases are made online just by shopping through the website. You can also sign up to receive e-mail updates on earning bonus points as well. Every dollar collected can and will make a difference!

Meridian Partners in Education would like to send out a heartfelt THANK YOU to all of those that helped in providing food and paper goods for the annual soup supper. We also wish to thank those that helped make soups, desserts, serve and clean up for the meal. A total of 242 meals were served. Profits from the soup supper enable us to offer a scholarship every year for our graduating seniors. We appreciate your generosity and support which allows us to make things like this possible!

Also, there are still some stadium seats available for sale along with miscellaneous apparel. If anyone is interested, please contact Trish at the school or Jamie Niederklein at (402) 446-2080.

The next M-PIE meeting will be held April 25, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the schools commons. If you have never been to a meeting, come check it out. It offers a very low key way to make a big difference in our school. New members are always welcome!





MERIDIAN FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2012

SENIOR HUSKER FOOTBALL PLAYERS

VS

MERIDIAN ALUMNI

5 ON 5 FULL-COURT BASKETBALL GAME

The Foundation is looking for :

- Volunteers to help plan/work this event
- Volunteers to make a baked good for a raffle
- Meridian alumni basketball players willing to “take on the HUSKERS!!”

Please contact Kelly Frank if you are interested in planning, working or playing.

Cell Phone: 402-300-0559

E-mail: kellyfrank03@yahoo.com

Facebook: “Kelly Johnson-Frank” or “Meridian Foundation”

We will be discussing details at our next Foundation meeting on Monday, February 13th, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Meridian School Commons—PLEASE attend, as always the public is welcome.

Valentine’s Carnation Order – Orders Due February 1st

Name _____

#of RED _____ @ \$2.00 = _____

For whom _____

of PINK _____ @ \$2.00 = _____

for whom _____

of WHITE _____ @ \$2.00 = _____

for whom _____

Total carnations _____ Total Owed _____



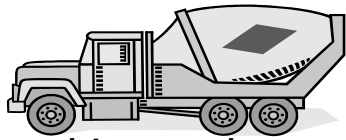
33” HEART BEAD NECKLACES will also be sold this year for \$1.

The bead necklaces do not need to be preordered, but you can include them in your order.

of Heart Bead Necklaces _____ @ \$1.00 = _____

for whom _____





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www.naucountry.com

MUSTANG MEMOS

YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT

Something that really pleases me is: _____

Something that bothers me is: _____

_____ And this is what I think should be done about it _____

I have attempted to solve this problem "through channels" ____yes ____no

If YES, the results were _____

Appropriate Channels

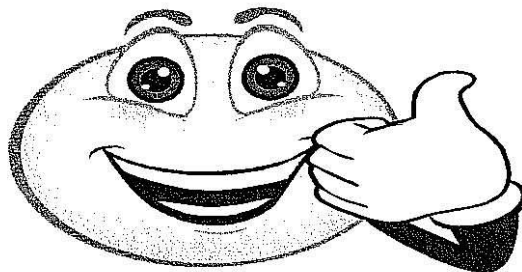
1. Direct source / Teacher
2. Administration / Principal
3. Superintendent
4. Board of Education

_____ signature

Use this section to say "Thank You" to a Meridian Public Schools employee or group who you feel is doing a good job.

To: _____ From: _____

I would like to tell you that _____



Please return to: Russ P. Gade, Superintendent, Meridian Public Schools, PO Box 190, Daykin, NE 68338

NOTE: Your child must be five years of age on or before July 31, to register for Kindergarten.

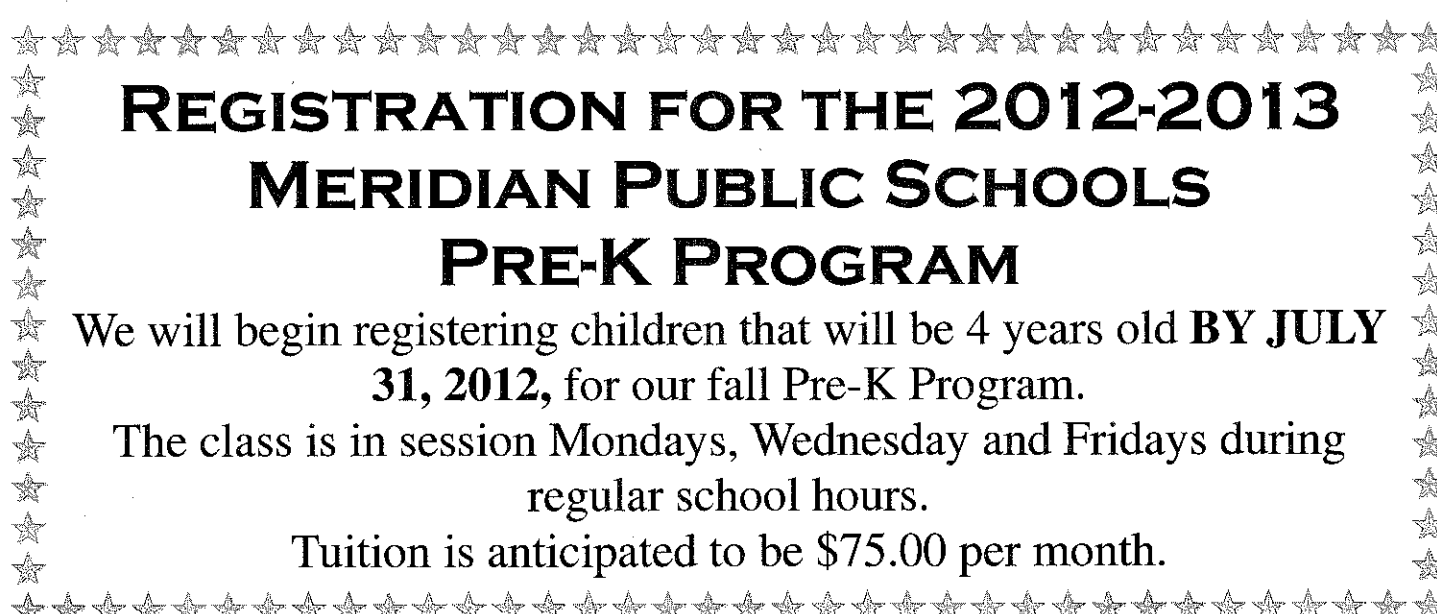


**REGISTRATION FOR THE 2012-2013
MERIDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
KINDERGARTEN**

If you know of any children in the Meridian Public Schools District who will be **5 years of age by July 31, 2012**, please contact Judy in the Elementary Office or Mr. Gade, Superintendent, at **402-446-7265**.

Parents meeting will be on **April 16th, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Elementary Kindergarten Room**.

*Families and Students requesting **OPTION ENROLLMENT**, the automatic approval deadline is **MARCH 15, 2012**.*



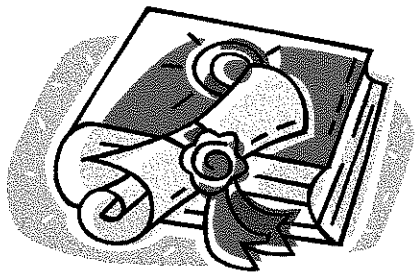
**REGISTRATION FOR THE 2012-2013
MERIDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
PRE-K PROGRAM**

We will begin registering children that will be 4 years old **BY JULY 31, 2012**, for our fall Pre-K Program.

The class is in session Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays during regular school hours.

Tuition is anticipated to be \$75.00 per month.

Meridian Mustangs Yearbook on Sale Now!!



Is your child's picture on the front cover? There are 25 colored pictures of Meridian students of all ages on the cover. Don't miss out!! Buy your yearbook today. The entire book will be printed in color this year. Thanks to the yearbook staff and our advertising supporters for making this possible.

Yearbook—2011-2012

The 2012 yearbook will go on sale beginning Tuesday, February 7. Every student's picture will be in color. There are two incentives for buying the first day of sales:

- The price the first day is only \$45.
- Students will get their name stamped on the cover free.

Starting Wednesday, February 8, yearbooks will sell for \$48. Names stamped on the cover will be an extra \$2. Yearbooks will be sold until April 30.

Orders may be given to Mrs. Soukup, Mrs. Houser, and Mrs. Endorf.

We have a few left from the previous years if you forgot to order at that time. See Mrs. Soukup for the year you are missing.



Name _____
Number of Yearbooks _____
Name on Yearbook _____
Total Amount Due _____

Make checks payable to Meridian Activity Fund.