#### Mission Statement:

Meridian Public Schools will educate all students in a safe, nurturing environment while challenging them to develop their integrity, knowledge, and unique talents to become responsible, productive citizens.

#### www.meridianmustangs.org

March, 2015

Meridian Public Schools will educa.

Newsletter

Newsletter-March, 2015

rintendent 

#### **GREETINGS**

As I begin the March newsletter I am reflecting on how fast I feel this school year has gone. I have often made comments to others who have asked, but I have to state again how great of a year it has been here at Meridian. students, staff and patrons have made this year so special. It was almost a year ago when I received the call to offer me the Meridian Superintendent position and I have to say it is an honor to represent Meridian.

As February concludes I am aware of how much running and how many activities the students have been involved with; please be sure to take time for your family and visit with your children. We are concluding our winter sports, the end of the third quarter is only weeks away, speech and the musical rehearsal are going, planning for the Science Fair, spring sports are ready to begin and we cannot forget the NeSA (Nebraska State Assessment) tests will be approaching so please check with your child(ren) and confirm they are doing well.

#### **OPTION ENROLLMENT**

If you are aware of other families who are considering Option Enrollment please inform them to contact the school and schedule a walk through and discuss the steps that need to be taken. The date to submit the option enrollment is March 15.

#### WRESTLING

Meridian Public Schools had 75% of our district wrestlers qualify for state - a remarkable number. Congratulations to Brandon Jackson, Cody Lundholm, Liam Noel, Triston Voight, Josh Traynor, and Baxter Beals who qualified for State. Special recognition goes to Brandon Jackson for earning Third Place at State. To all of those who have had personal bests and a great year, we are proud of you. This truly demonstrates the hard work you have dedicated to yourself and your team.

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL

I did not fact check this, but I had heard a senior make the comment that it was her first time of defeating EM in a sport for her career. What I am referring to is the Girls Sub-District win over Exeter-Milligan. It was a true team effort and demonstrates the ability of the working together. The team played Hampton Thursday, on February 19th, and unfortunately, lost. Congratulations on an exciting end to a good season.

#### **BOYS BASKETBALL**

The boys continue to fight hard and have been in so many close games. They will be entering Sub-Districts on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> with a 7:00 pm game at Geneva versus McCool Junction. We wish them the best of luck in post season play.

#### **BUSING INFORMATION**

Within this newsletter is a Bus Information Update page for school vear 2015-2016 that needs to be completed and returned to the School by March 27th. We will be sending this same Bus Information Update flyer home with the students to ensure all families have an opportunity to complete the information. We will be reviewing our bus routes this Spring in preparation for next school year. Thank you for completing and returning the information promptly. If you have any questions, please call. Please feel free to write notes, comments, and/or requests on the survey.

**Board of Education Meridian Public Schools District 48-0303** Daykin, Nebraska 68338 Wednesday, February 11, 2015

#### Regular February 11, 2015 Meeting -7:30 P.M.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on February 11, 2015 as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President VanWesten called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented. Members present were Sobotka, Frank, Miller, Scheer, Vorderstrasse, and VanWesten. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Principal Scott, Mr. Jacob Baber, Mrs. Pat Schwan, Brandon Jackson, and Guadalupe Dimas.

Miller moved and Frank seconded to approve the full agenda. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Frankaye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Scheer moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve consent agenda as follows:

- 1. Minutes of the January 19, 2015 Regular Meeting
- 2. District Financial Report
- 3. Activity Fund Report
- 4. Hot Lunch Report
- 5. Bills

Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Milleraye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Superintendent Kort discussed the curriculum cycle that was reviewed last month.

Sobotka moved and Vorderstrasse seconded that board members be appointed to the following committees:

#### Americanism:

Scheer, Frank, VanWesten







Page 2 Meridian Public School, District 48-0303

March, 2015

#### **Curriculum and Instruction:**

Frank, VanWesten

#### **Buildings/Ground/Transportation:**

Miller, Vorderstrasse, Scheer **Negotiations:** 

VanWesten, Miller, Sobotka Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Milleraye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Scheer moved and Miller seconded that Jefferson County Bank be the District Depository and the Fairbury Journal News the District Newspaper. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Miller moved and Frank seconded to approve membership in the Nebraska Association of School Boards. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Scheer moved and Miller seconded to approve KSB as legal counsel for Meridian Public School in the 2015-2016 school year. Vote taken: Vorderstrasseaye, Miller-aye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Scheer moved and Frank seconded to approve the 2015-2016 School Calendar with Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016, and Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016, as Spring Break. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Superintendent Kort reviewed the results from the recent school radon tests. The results showed a significant decline as compared to last year.

Superintendent Kort distributed DVDs of the District Policy Handbook. Review and updating of the handbook will start with the 1000 series and will continue throughout the year.

Principal Scott reported:

- 1. Teacher In-Service
- 2. Nebraska Statewide Assessment
- 3. 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School
- 4. Weather Closings
- 5. Parents' Night for Cheerleaders and

Girls and Boys Basketball

- 6. CRC Wrestling
- 7. School Counseling Week
- 8. Jefferson County Spelling Bee
- 9. Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 10. Speech Contest Events and Dates
- 11. Valentines for Veterans

Superintendent Kort reported:

- 1. ALLICAP Insurance
- 2. Roof project
- 3. Summer Projects
- 4. Non-certified Employees Pay
- 5. Legislative Bills
- 6. Board Retreat Dates
- 7. Jefferson County Placement of Culvert for Football Field

Miller moved and Scheer seconded to approve Mr. Scott's contract for the 2015-2016 school year. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Frankaye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Scheer moved and Frank seconded to go into executive session at 8:48 p.m. to negotiate the Principal's and Superintendent's salaries for 2015-2016 school year. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Frankaye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

President VanWesten stated that it had been voted to go to executive session to negotiate the Principal's and Superintendent's salaries for the 2015-2016 school year.

The board reentered open session at 9:24 p.m.

The Board discussed the Principal's and Superintendent's salaries for 2015-2016. The Items were tabled until the March meeting.

Next Regular Meeting set for Monday, March 16, 2015 – 7:30 p.m.

Scheer moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 9:28 p.m. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Frankaye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

#### J. Scott Sobotka,

Secretary Meridian District # 48-0303

Mustang MEMO Mr. Harold Scott Principal

Teacher in-service was held the afternoon of January 21st. Discussion took place regarding potential goals for the next five-year accreditation cycle. Teachers narrowed the list of goals to three possible goals plus an additional area of focus. The three goals include reading, math, and writing, with an additional focus area of improving student wellness. These areas will be fine tuned to determine specific, measurable goals.

NeSA-W (Nebraska Statewide Assessment) writing assessments were completed between January 26, and February 3. All students in grades 4, 8, and 11 participated in this assessment. The rest of the NeSA tests will be done in March and April. Students in grades 3 through 8 and 11 will take these assessments.

Tuesday, January 27th, was our 100th student day of school! Several classes recognized the day by wearing special hats, counting to 100 by 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s, and using coins to find different combinations to equal \$1 (100 pennies).

Parents night for cheerleaders and girls/ boys basketball was held on Tuesday, February 3. M-PIE held their annual soup supper that night. They sold out of everything by the end of the night!

District wrestling was held February 13-14. Congratulations to Baxter Beals, Brandon Jackson, Cody Lundholm, Liam Noel, Josh Traynor, and Triston Voight for qualifying for the state tournament to be held February 19-21. Congrats to coaches Placek and Baber.

School Counseling Week was February 2-6. Thank you, Mrs. Kelly Frank, for all that you do for Meridian students and families!







Page 3 Meridian Public School, District 48-0303

March, 2015

The Jefferson County Spelling Bee was held Monday, February 9, at Meridian. Congratulations to Brynn Holtmeier and Fred Kujath for finishing in the top 10!

Parent-teacher conferences were Monday, February 9, and Wednesday, February 11, from 4:00pm-8:30pm. Elementary had an average attendance of over 93%! High school attendance was just over 50%.

Meridian will host the CRC conference speech meet on Wednesday, February 25. District speech will be Tuesday, March 17. There is no school for students on those two days.

### COUNSELOR'S NOTES

by Kelly Frank

#### **SENIORS & PARENTS:**

Hopefully by now, you have or are in the process of filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Please go to <a href="https://fafsa.ed.gov/">https://fafsa.ed.gov/</a> if you still need to complete it. Once you have filled out the FAFSA, you will be sent a Student Aid Report (SAR). This will help determine your financial aid eligibility. EducationQuest has some great resources at <a href="http://www.educationquest.org/fafsa-tools/">http://www.educationquest.org/fafsa-tools/</a> or you can call them if you need to set up an appointment at 800.303.3745.

#### **Scholarships:**

Local scholarships have been updated and are on the Counselor website. Many of them are due April 15<sup>th</sup>, but students have been encouraged to start on them now. If you have questions about a scholarship, please ask! Remember, other scholarship information can be found on my website and students are encouraged to check it often.

Seniors and Parents....Please make sure you inform the Guidance Office of any scholarships you receive.

#### **JUNIORS:**

Registration deadline for the April 18<sup>th</sup> ACT is **March 13<sup>th</sup>.** Please go to <u>www.actstudent.org</u> to register. If you qualify for Free & Reduced lunches, you

many be able to use a fee waiver. Please see Mrs. Frank if you have questions.

The final stages of our Job Shadowing process are being put into place. Hopefully, by the end of the month, all Juniors will have actually participated in a Job Shadow. A special thanks goes to any area business that helped sponsor a student.

It's College Visit Time!! Spring is a great time for Juniors to take an individual tour of a campus they are interested in. Many schools offer "Junior Visit Days" or an individual tour can be set up. Please see Mrs. Frank if you need help in setting up a visit. Remember, every Junior and Senior is allowed two college visit days per year.

#### 17 & 18 YEAR OLD MALES:

The law requires that all males must register with the Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday. It is now possible to submit registration information early, as long the person is at least 17 years and 3 months old. Selective Service will keep your information on file and process it automatically within 30 days of your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. To find out more information go to <a href="https://www.sss.gov">https://www.sss.gov</a>. You can also register here online.

#### 2015-2016 CLASS REGISTRATION

Over the next month, I will be meeting with each student in grades 8-11 to work on their 4-year Personal Learning Plan and to register for classes for next For next year's juniors and seniors, taking dual credit college classes may be an option. students may also take college classes as part of SENCAP (Southeast Community College's Career Academy). These are great opportunities for students to obtain college credit while still in high school!

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Kelly Frank <u>kfrank@meridianmustangs.org</u> 402-446-7265 ext. 1253

#### 15-16 Kindergarten Parent Meeting

On March 2, 2015, parents of Kindergarten students who will begin school in August, 2015, are invited to attend an informational meeting. We will attempt to inform these parents of the regulations regarding Option Enrollment, immunization, and physicals. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Kindergarten room.

## IMMUNIZATION & PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

All students entering Kindergarten and Seventh Grade are required by law to have a physical and up-to-date immunizations prior to entering the 2015 -2016 school year. Kindergarten students must also have an eye exam completed before the start of school.

All Junior High and High School students who intend on participating in ANY athletics or cheerleading are required to have a current physical on file. The physical form needs to include a Clearance Waiver. Current forms for physicals and waivers will be available in the District Office or online within the month of March.

#### **BAKING PANS**

Meridian FBLA always have pans available for sale. The small and large pans have plastic covers available. Talk to Ricky Nuñez, President, or Mrs. Soukup, Sponsor, if you are interested.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS!!**

Meridian Public Schools would like to congratulate the cheerleaders on earning the 2015 Class D State Championship trophy in the Sideline Division. Participating members were McKehna Bartels, Jordan Daniels, Bridgette Jackson, April Nelson, Shelby Homolka, Crystal Nuñez, Shianne Mattson, and Coach Deanna Brakhage.

#### **FBLA NEWS**

I want to start this off by thanking all our community members for supporting our chapter. We had a very successful fundraiser selling fruit and braids! We made about \$5100! Once again, we thank

Page 4



Meridian Public School, District 48-0303

March, 2015

all our community and family members for continuing to support our chapter! This is also a busy time for our members! In April, we will have 24 members attend the State Leadership Conference in Omaha. The State Leadership Conference is a great opportunity to compete and test against all the other FBLA chapters in the state. Most of these members attending the conference have already started to work on their events due to the deadlines approaching quickly! In the past, we have had great success with sending people to the National Leadership Conference! We hope to continue this tradition!

Another event that our FBLA chapter is involved in every year, is helping out with the Daykin Consignment sale. All of our members have provided food and drinks for this event. We will be serving soup and sandwiches at the Consignment sale! We also prepared the sale bill for the Consignment sale.

Thanks once again to all our community members for continuing to support our FBLA chapter! We really appreciate it! Hopefully you brave the cold and come eat our delicious soup and sandwiches!

#### **STUCO NEWS**

Before we know it, the school year will be wrapping up, considering the second semester has begun. Student Council's year will be ending very soon which means elections will have to be held for new student class representatives. Before we get too ahead of what is to come, let's brainstorm what Student Council has achieved this month. Student Council needed to decide on a school improvement project and make it the "official" one. As of the beginning of January, Student Council had it narrowed down to two different projects. After open floor discussion and a majority vote, the Council decided to invest in a new marquee to replace the current one. Student Council received complaints the current marquee was not adequate due to its size and small font. Two current Council members, Shelby and myself, attended a School Board Meeting to ask the Board's opinion on investing in a new marquee. Receiving approval, the Council decided to make the new marquee their "official" project. The Council has yet to decide on which marquee to purchase; design, size, etc.

Since the Council usually hosts a school dance around this time, a date needed to be chosen in order to hold the dance. After open floor discussion the Council decided on the weekend of state basketball as the date. The Council has decided to allow out of school dates for this dance. In order to attend, students will need to bring a certain amount of canned food. This event will kick off our canned food drive.

As basketball season comes to an end, Student Council decided to host a "split the pot" deal with the crowd during Basketball Parents' Night. Every year, Student Council sells carnations a week before Valentine's Day. The Council allowed elementary and high school students, as well as teachers to

purchase flowers. They were allowed to choose from three different colors; red, pink, and white. Red stood for love, pink stood for friend, and white was from a secrete admirer. If you have any questions or concern please let a member know.... Remember it takes more muscles to frown than to smile, so smile.

The One and Only Fabulous, Crystal Nuñez Public Relations



We have BIG News in Box Tops...we want to send out a huge CONGRATS to the kids as they have exceeded their goal for the 2014/2015 school year by bringing in more than \$600 in box tops so far! That means they have earned a permanent outdoor net to be erected this summer. Keep up the great work as the more money we make, the more fun things we can get for you to enjoy... YOU earned it!

Congratulations go out to our December winning class, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and to our January winning class the Pre-K. We are planning on something for the end of March or April, so look for more info at school as well as in future newsletters.

Thank you again for supporting Box Tops at Meridian. What an awesome way to show your Mustang pride! Keep up the GREAT work!





Meridian Public School, District 48-0303 Page 5

March, 2015

## Meridian Public School 2015-16

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When: March 20th

**Who: K-12** students, parents,

grandparents, staff

**What:** Science Show beginning

at 6:30 p.m. followed by

hands-on activities until

8:30 p.m.

Where: Meridian Public School

Why: Explore **FREE** science

centers & activities





NEW\_3D Cover and |
| 3D Live Images! |
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| Don't miss out!

e arbale k Entire yearbook is in color.

## MERIDIAN MUSTANGS 2015 YEARBOOK ON SALE NOW

It is that time of the year again to order your 2015 yearbook. The 2015 yearbook will go on sale beginning Monday, March 9. 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 Tuesday, March 10, and through the remainder of the month, yearbooks will sell for \$48. Names stamped on the cover will be an extra \$2. Name stamping deadline will be March 31.

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					
Namber of	Yearboo	ks:			
Name on Y	earbook:				
Total Amoc	ınt Dae:				

Make check; payable to Meridian Activity Fand.





# MERIDIAN ELEMENTARY

# CARNIVAL

FRIDAY, APRIL 17th, 2015







# GAMES, CAKE WALK, FACE PAINTING & BOUNCE HOUSE!

Rain or Shine,

Carnival will be held at Meridian Gym

Concession stand will be serving Hot Dog, BBQ's and snacks!





Randall L. Kort Superintendent

#### Phone: 402-446-7265 Fax: 402-446-7246 www.meridianmustangs.org

Harold L. Scott **Principal** 

#### **Busing Information Update**

Meridian Public School is reviewing its' bus routes and needs your assistance. If your family is planning to ride the Meridian Public School bus during the 2015-2016 school year (on a regular basis or not), please complete the information below and return the form to Meridian Public School by March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015. We will publish bus routes with specific pick-up/drop-off points in our July newsletter.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Kort at the school 402-446-7265. Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Physical Address: Names of Child(ren) Riding: Preferred Pick-up/Drop-off Location(s): \_\_ (This will usually be at the end of the lane or a specified location.) Early (1:30 p.m.) Dismissal Information Request Meridian Public School has nine (9) scheduled 1:30 p.m. dismissals this coming school year. The early dismissals are for in-services, parent-teacher conferences, and vacation breaks. We understand these early dismissals create a disruption from the regular school day family supervision plans. Since the disruption is our making, Meridian would like to assist in minimizing the hassles created by our scheduling. Meridian Public School will create "Early Dismissal (1:30 p.m.) Bus Routes". The routes will be similar to the regular daily routes - same number of routes, various drop-off locations, and an estimated time schedule. Because these routes may be different than the regular daily routes with additional or different drop-off locations and times, we need your assistance. All families who plan to utilize Meridian's bus services on early dismissal days need to complete and return the information below by March 27th, 2015. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Kort at the school 402-446-7265. Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Physical Address: Names of Child(ren) Riding: Preferred Pick-up/Drop-off Location(s):
(This will usually be at the end of the lane or a specified location.)

BY MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup>, 2015, please return to:

Bus Route Data Meridian Public School PO Box 190 Daykin, NE 68338



## Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations 2014-2015

Student Age Group	Required Vaccines
Ages 2 through 5 years enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a child care provider	4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine, 3 doses of Polio vaccine, 3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age, *Hib not required after child reaches 5 yrs of age 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine, 1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age, 1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age, written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. 4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age. *Pneumococcal not required after child reaches 5 yrs of age
Students from Kindergarten through 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade, including all transfer students from outside the State of Nebraska and any foreign students	3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td vaccine, one given on or after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday,  3 doses of Polio vaccine,  3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age.  2 doses of MMR or MMRV vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month,  2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease, they do not need any varicella shots.
Additionally, for 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Only	1 dose of Tdap (must contain Pertussis booster)

Source: Nebraska Immunization Program, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, 2011. For additional information, call 402-471-6423.

The School Rules & Regulations are available on the internet: <a href="http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/reg/t173.htm">http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/reg/t173.htm</a> (Title 173: Control of Communicable Diseases - Chapter 3; revised and implemented 2011) Updated 1/2014



Page 11

Meridian Public School, District 48-0303





Daykin Lumber Co.

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