



Meridian Public School

The Hoof Print

Mustangs

Newsletter

www.meridianmustangs.org

September, 2010

From the Superintendent - Thomas L. Rother

The Board of Education has set a Public Hearing on Wednesday, September 15, 2010, at 7:00 P.M., for the Annual Budget Public Hearing. They also set the Annual Tax Request Hearing at 7:15 P.M. for Wednesday, Sept. 15th. The hearings will be advertised in the Fairbury Journal-News and using the format prescribed by law. The regular September board meeting will follow the two hearings.

For the 2010-2011 school year we will have a loss of \$55,548.56 in State Aid. The District Taxable Values are as follows:

Fillmore County = \$3,578,406.00 which represents a tax valuation increase of \$264,694.00.

Thayer County = \$56,429,087.00 which represents an increase of \$7,569,860.00.

Jefferson County = \$66,884,088.00 which represents an increase of \$4,462,943.00.

Saline County = \$69,499,817.00 which represents an increase of \$2,958,493.00.

The total increase in valuation will be \$15,255,990.00. The grand total for the District valuation = \$196,391,398.00 for the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year. This is an 8.4224% increase for the entire District.

Enrollment: As of this writing the August 25, 2010, enrollments are as follows: Pre-Kindergarten = 8, Kindergarten = 13, First Grade = 9, Second Grade = 11, Third Grade = 9, Fourth Grade = 13, Fifth Grade = 12, Sixth Grade = 9, for a total in Grades K-6 of 76 students. Grades 7 = 17, Grade 8 = 17, Grade 9 = 10, Grade 10 = 11, Grade 11 = 25, Grade 12 = 19 for a total in Grades 7-12 of 99 students. Total enrollment in grades K-12 = 175 students. The enrollment at the beginning of the 2009-10 school year was 177 students. Therefore we are down 2 students from last year.

Bus Routes for 2010-2011: There are three bus routes this year. The drivers

and I have put together route information and the drivers have contacted the families that have indicated that they want bus service. Times, names, addresses and telephone numbers are on the list. Following the first week of school, I will update the bus route sheets and each family that rides a route bus will receive a copy. All the regular route drivers have Cell Phones. We have contracted with U.S. Cellular and the following phone numbers have been assigned to drivers: Charles Houser cell #402-300-1707, Janelle Heiserman cell #402-300-1704, Elizabeth Noel cell #402-300-1705. The substitute drivers: Gary Richard & Allen Lintz will have cell #402-300-1708. This cell phone will be in the Superintendent's office for use by substitute bus drivers or school employees using school vehicles. Mr. Kelley will have cell #402-300-1722 and I have cell phone #402-300-1715.

The Meridian School building has gone through some additional improvements this summer and the Board of Education Members and I invite you to visit the school and have lunch with us. Please call ahead and let Trish or Kathy know that you would like to have lunch.

MERIDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

The last meeting of the Foundation was Wednesday, August 11, 2010. The next MEETING HAS BEEN SET FOR Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 8TH, AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE COMMONS AREA OF MERIDIAN SCHOOL. THE PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

The Meridian Public Schools Foundation is a Nonprofit Corporation and was organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501© (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The Meridian Public Schools Foundation is dedicated to preserving the philosophy of quality

education, developing a strong future for the students of Meridian Public Schools, supporting educational opportunities to achieve these goals and being the catalyst to extend these goals far into the future.

The Meridian Public Schools Foundation was officially formed on Monday, November 26, 1990. The Board of Directors consists of all six present Board of Education Members (Gary Mussman, Brian Jackson, Patty Johnson, Gary Baxa, Larry Miller, and Dwayne Wolfe), and five members selected from the public at the Wednesday, July 14, 2010 Annual meeting. Board of Directors, Shari Apking and Laird Bartels appointed Kathy Houser and Rachel Johnson to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors elected the following officers: Dough Francis – President, Shari Apking – Vice President, Kathy Houser – Secretary, Laird Bartels – Treasurer, and Rachel Johnson – Board of Directors member.

At the August 11, 2010 meeting the Board of Directors and Committee members: Pat Johnson and Trish Endorf, revised the Meridian Public Schools Foundation letter to the public. A COPY OF THE REVISED LETTER IS INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER. The Meridian Board of Education has given the "OK" to raise money for a metal building containing a Weight Room/Athletic Training Room, two (2) bathrooms, and some office and storage space. Remember all donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE!!!

The next Foundation meeting is Wednesday, September 8, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Meridian Public School. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND. Please take time to attend and let us hear your ideas of how to improve our school climate. Please contact my office at 402-446-7265 if you have questions or suggestions.

SALE! SALE! SALE! SALE!

We have a number of 2006 Yearbooks (Annuals) that we will sell for free-will

donations. If interested contact the Superintendent's office 402-446-7265. We also have new football jersey for sale for \$15.00. We have old, old, (but in good condition) Volleyball Uniforms for sale at \$5.00 each. We have a variety of Meridian caps at \$5.00 each. Please come see our store in the Supt's office.

Looking forward to a GREAT SCHOOL YEAR! GO MUSTANGS!!!
TLR

**Notes from the
Secondary Principal
Bobby Kelley**

Well, we are off and running with a new school year! We have made a couple of changes this year that I believe will truly better our students. One major change is the amount of absences students are allowed. Last year students were allowed 10 absences per semester; this year students are only allowed 7 absences per semester. We will also be calling parents/guardians if your child is absent for the day. So if you know that your son/daughter is going to be gone for whatever reason, please notify Kathy in the High School office.

We have also implemented a reading program for our 7-12 grade students. Each 7-12th grade student will read 20 minutes at the beginning of each morning. The goal of the program is to get students reading books that they enjoy and not just the books they are required to during the school year.

Enrollment Numbers:

At last count, here are the 7-12 student numbers as we begin the 2010-11 school year.

- 7th grade-----17
- 10th grade-----11
- 8th grade-----17
- 11th grade-----25
- 9th grade-----10
- 12th grade-----19

Last year we began the year with 104 students and we graduated a large class, so we didn't lose much ground on enrollment. The official numbers for our school are taken on the last school day in September and sent into the state offices. We wish all those in the 99 count the best year ever at Meridian!

Parent-Teacher Conferences:

Meridian will hold the fall Parent-Teacher conferences on September 21st. This year will be a little bit different than in years past. We will only have conferences on one day and will run them starting at 1:00 pm and ending at 9:00 pm. There will be no school that day for students and teachers will report by 1:00. Your attendance would be greatly appreciated, and it will give you a great chance to get to know all the new faces around the Meridian High School.

Free and Reduced Lunch

Applications:

By this time, all Meridian households should have received the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program forms/guidelines. If you have not received this application information, give us a call and we will make sure that you receive one as soon as possible. We would like to have the lunch applications process completed by Friday, September 10th, 2010.

Hot Lunch Prices for 2010-11:

The following lunch prices were established by the Meridian School Board during their June Board meeting. Those prices for the 2010-11 school year are:

- K-6-----\$2.00
- 7-12-----\$2.25
- Reduced-----\$0.40
- Adult Lunch-----\$3.25
- Extra Milk-----\$0.25

We have also implemented a breakfast program this year and the prices for breakfast are:

- Pre K-6-----\$1.25
- 7-12-----\$1.50
- Reduced-----\$0.30
- Adult-----\$2.00

If paying by personal check, please make the check payable to: **Meridian Hot Lunch Fund.** The school asks that each family pay in advance for their student(s) lunch and breakfast. Each family will be allowed a grace period of three days of "charged" lunches and breakfast per student before the lunch and breakfast privilege for the student will be discontinued.

Cell Phone Reminder:

Our school remains very adamant

about having cell phones and other electronic devices brought into our school. Disregarding our cell phone policy can result in Saturday School and/or suspensions. We suggest that student cell phones be kept in locked cars or turned into the main offices. Please read the section in the student handbook about our cell phone policy.

Admission Prices to School Events:

Each year our fellow schools in the CRC determine what admission prices will be for the upcoming school year. The following admission prices will be in effect for the 2010-11 school year:
Adults: \$4.00 K-12 Students: \$3.00
Senior citizens (65 or older) residing in our school district can get a golden Senior Citizen's Pass to our regular season sporting events in the Superintendent's Office.....see Trish Endorf.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

by
Susan Thomas

BENEFITTING FROM CONFERENCES:

When parents are involved in what goes on at school, children achieve more and school experiences are generally more positive. By becoming involved, parents send a message to their child that school is important and they demonstrate to teachers that they are interested in their child's education.

Parent teacher's conferences are one important way parents can become involved. Here are some tips to make them more productive:

1. Have a purpose for meeting Make a list of questions and write down concerns ahead of time. What are my child's strengths and weaknesses? What will my child be doing this year? What can I do at home to help my child?
2. Be an active participant. Ask questions to be sure you understand what has been said.
3. Focus on the Positives. When talking about your child, focus on solutions. Identify ways you and the teacher can work together to change your child's behavior or

performance. Be positive with the teachers; they want your child to be successful. Recognize and respect the good work they are doing.

4. Talk to your child about the conference. Ask for their concerns before the conference and share with them what you have learned by praising their strengths and how to improve their weaknesses.
5. Focus on cooperation. Establish a partnership with the teacher. You both contribute to your child's development and performance in important ways.

JUNIOR AND SENIOR NOTES:

Juniors will take the ASVAB Career Exploration Program test on Tuesday, September 7. Any senior who wants to take it again, may do so. Materials will be sent home prior to this date for your information. On that same date the **Seniors** will take the ASSET test, which is the college admissions test required by the Community college system in Nebraska. This can take the place of the ACT for students choosing this college pathway.

Juniors, if you are interested in taking the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test), it is Wednesday, October 13. This is a test that qualifies you for National Merit Scholarships, but is also a practice for the ACT. The PSAT is optional and you pay \$13. It is also called the National Merit Scholar Qualifying Test (NMQT). More information will be sent home in September. Sophomores may take it to get the experience. See Mrs. Thomas if you are interested.

Juniors and seniors will attend the Career/College Fair on Wednesday morning September 21 from 9:00-11:30 at SCC Beatrice. Forty state and regional colleges have signed up to send a representative so that students can visit with them.

Parents and students should also plan on attending one of the following:

Grand Island Area College Fair, Sunday, September 19, 1:00-3:30-Heartland Event Center

Lincoln Area College Fair on Sunday October 17, 1:00-3:00-Southeast Community College

Omaha Area College Fair, Sunday, October 31, 1:00-4:00—University of Nebraska at Omaha

Register by September 17th for the October 23th ACT test. Students are encouraged to register on-line. Print out a copy of your registration form and bring to the guidance office to help us keep track of those who are registered. Students who qualify for free and reduced lunch can get up to two waivers to pay for their ACT test. They must have it to register.

Meridians College Financial Aid Planning Session for seniors will be at 11:00 on November 15th. Parents are encouraged to attend. The College Planning Office of the Education Quest Foundation will provide a speaker to explain how to apply for loans, scholarships, and grants.

An ACT Preparation Class will be offered again this year and will be taught by Mrs. Lorrie Hofstetter and Mrs. Bobette Toalson. This class will meet four times and is designed to assist students in their quest for improved ACT scores. **This year there will be a fee of \$33.00.** The dates for the classes will be:
 Sunday, September 19th, 5:30-9:00 PM
 Sunday, September 26th, 5:30-9:00 PM
 Sunday, October 10th, 5:30-9:00 PM
 Saturday, October 16th, 8:00 AM-12:00 PM-Practice Test

All juniors who are taking the ACT are urged to attend as well as any seniors who want a refresher on test taking skills or on individual subject areas. Please pre-register with either Mrs. Hofstetter or Mrs. Toalson by September 13 so that materials may be prepared for the class.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING INVOLVED:

Start the school year by getting involved in extracurricular activities to increase your chances for scholarships and admission to your top colleges. Use the Activities Resume at educationquest.org to track your involvement throughout high school—then the information is readily available when it's time to apply.

SEPTEMBER SENIOR TO DO

LIST:

- Meet with your guidance counselor to review your records. Match these with the entrance/ admission requirements of the institutions you are considering. Make a list of your activities and awards since entering high school, if you haven't already done so.
- Make a final list of your college choices
- Send for application materials and financial aid information or locate it on line and bookmark it.
- Check online for deadline dates for applications for admission, housing, financial aid, required entrance exam. Put dates into your planner.
- If you haven't done so, get a file box to store all the information you are getting in the mail.
- Apply to a minimum of three institutions. Your selection should include at least one that your research has shown will definitely accept you. Use the common application for Nebraska schools.
- Meet with your counselor to find out how to get transcripts sent to the schools you are applying to.
- Visit EducationQuest.org to estimate your FAFSA results using the *College Funding Estimator*, and sign up for the *Countdown2College* e-mail service.
- Register for the ACT by September 17 for the October 23 ACT if you want to take it again

Check out the Web site for EducationQuest Foundation College planning: www.educationquest.org or call 1-800-303-3745 for the Lincoln Office

JEFFERSON COUNTY FAIR ARTWORK:

Submitted by Marilyn Bachle

Several 7-12 Meridian students were honored by having some of their art work sent to the Jefferson County Fair. These items were on display during the fair along with work from students of other school districts in Jefferson County. All art work was judged by a person chosen by the membership of the Jefferson County Fair Board. As is often true, the judging of the art work becomes somewhat subjective as the personal views of the judge enter in to what he/she considers "good" art work.

Nevertheless, the Meridian students who displayed work need to be congratulated and commended for their efforts.

Those students were:

7th Graders:

Lupe Dimas with a *First Award*; **Blair Hofstetter** with a *First Award*; **Brandon Jackson** with a *First Award* and a *Very Good*; **Ty Brakhage** with a *First Award*; **Kayte Akins** with a *First Award* and a *Good*; **Ann Endorf** with a *First Award* and a *Good*; **Alysha Johnson** with a *Good*; **Jerry Duke** with an *Honorable Mention*.

8th Graders:

Kelly Villeda with a *First Award* and an *Honorable Mention*; **Bryce Schweer** with a *Good*; **Kyle Schwisow** with a *Very Good* and an *Honorable Mention*; and **Miranda Johnson** with a *Good*.

9th Graders:

Kameron Prouse with a *Good* and an *Honorable Mention*; **Desiree Bartels** with four *Very Goods* and a *Good*; **Yesenia Nunez** with a *Very Good* and a *Good*; **Cody Nolte** with two *Goods*; **Michaela Kapperman** with a *Very Good* and a *Good*; and **Cassie Aldrich** with a *Good*.

10th Graders:

Brandon Sales with two *Goods* and two *Honorable Mentions*; **Karlee Schwisow** with two *Goods*; **Brant Stewart** with two *Honorable Mentions*; **Riley Meyer** with a *Good* and an *Honorable Mention*; **Riley Brakhage** with a *Very Good*; **Ethan Sims** with an *Honorable Mention*; and **Aiden Carpenter** with a *Very Good* and a *Good*.

11th Graders:

Crystal Brakhage with a *Good* and an *Honorable Mention*; **Shane Roesler** with two *Honorable Mentions*; and **Mason Mailahn** with a *Good*.

12th Graders:

Danielle Aldrich with a *Good*; **Jack Herring** with a *Good* and an *Honorable Mention*; **Jamie Durlinger** with a *Very Good*; **Ryan Arnold** with two *Honorable Mentions*; **Rose Connell** with a *Good*; **Ryan Meyer** with a *Good*; **Tanya Niederklein** with a *Good*; **Brian Heiserman** with a *Good*; and **Kagan Kirk** also with a *Good*.

Congratulations, students!

MERIDIAN ENRICHMENT PROGRAM:

The Meridian Enrichment Program is designed to meet the diversified cognitive, emotional and social needs of high-ability learners, by providing differentiated educational services, within and beyond the regular classroom. In the Meridian Enrichment Program, high-ability learners are students who excel markedly in the ability to think, reason, judge, invent, create or perform. If any parents/guardians feel the child (or children) have exceptional talent in an academic area, leadership, creativity, or visual and performing arts, and would like to see if their child/children could qualify for the program, please feel free to contact Mrs. Bachle, Enrichment Coordinator, at the school—446-7265.

STUCO NEWS:

Who can resist the smell of brand new school supplies? Gracious knows I sure can't! The crayons, the freshly sharpened pencils, and new notebooks just waiting to be filled with doodles!...Oh wait, did I say doodles? I meant notes. Yes, of course that's what I meant. You know what else I can't resist about the new school year? The many exciting jobs and responsibilities. But before we open up our fresh new box of StuCo news, let's rifle through the files and take a look at how Student Council kept busy during the late part of last year, along with the sweltering summer months.

With the senior members having said their goodbyes and leaving with their StuCo graduation gifts in tow, we welcomed new members Mason Mailahn, Michelle Bartels, Drew Endorf, Amber Brejcha, Blair Hofstetter, Jake VanWesten, and Rebecca Taylor to the council. After electing new officers (President Angela Durlinger, Vice President Allison Johnson, Secretary Brianna Jackson, Treasurer Melanie Baxa, Public Relations Officer Desiree Bartels, and Historians Hailey Kaderabek and Crystal Brakhage), the new council focused on giving Student Council Advisor/English teach Bobette Toalson, Secretary Linda Johnson, Junior/Senior High Music teacher Laura Bigley, and Elementary Music teacher Myra Kluck a proper goodbye, complete with cards and

appreciative gifts. Also receiving gifts were the 2010 graduating students of Meridian. We will miss both the departing students and faculty members of Meridian; you helped shape the school in an important way, and we thank you for that. The council also planned a Last Day of School Party for the Junior High and High School, with an assortment of games throughout the half-day, topped off with prizes and a special lunch. What a way to end the school year!

As the temps rose in the summer time, so did Student Council's summer activity list! Throughout the summer months, a variety of groups went out to the school and helped keep the exterior as beautiful as ever, by landscaping. Picking up trash, pulling weeds and planting new flowers were all included in preserving the grounds. Thanks for your hard work, StuCo members!

June was the month to get down to business, and what better place to do this than the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha? That's right, on June 15, the council took a road trip to Omaha with their new sponsors, Mrs. Weber and Mr. VanderSchaaf, to have their meeting and participate in ice breakers at a local park in the morning, and later went to the Henry Doorly Zoo! The zoo was a fun adventure complete with an IMAX movie of "Ultimate Wave Tahiti", but let's discuss what happened at the morning meeting. The main focus of this meeting was to begin planning the 2010 Meridian Homecoming. After establishing committees for theme, colors, song, decorations, and crown, the date was set for August 15th, to meet at the school and discuss the choices for each category. Meridian's 2010 homecoming game will be on September 24th, against the Exeter-Milligan Timberwolves. Woo!!

In July, the Student Council teamed up with the cheerleaders to have their annual fireworks stand in Fairbury! After a long week of unloading, selling, and reloading boxes of fireworks, the council and cheerleaders ended up making around \$1,500.00 each. "Thank you" to you, the community, the parents that helped, Rene' Scheer, Mrs. Weber, Mr. VanderSchaaf, and Deanna Brakhage,

the new cheerleading coach! Three cheers for teamwork!

Wow! We've had quite the busy summer! But as the students began lining up in the checkout aisles with their brand new school supplies, StuCo held their annual Back-to-School meeting and made the final decisions on Homecoming theme, color and song, and also planned a Back-to-School Bash to be held on Friday, August 20th. Following the meeting, the council landscaped the grounds and reorganized the trophy cases, which ended up looking just lovely. Way to go StuCo!

Although textbooks are a very important part of our academic activities, I'm quite sure our student body and surrounding community would much rather enjoy flipping through their favorite magazines. Are your subscriptions wearing down to the wire, readers? Don't fret, because kicking off on August 30th, Meridian students will begin knocking on your door selling magazines! The magazine fundraiser brings in a very large portion of the student body's funds, and StuCo is very proud to be able to plan this. Please support Meridian and get some new subscriptions!

Well, my lovely readers, I have managed to cover all of Student Council's many recent activities, and with that, I'm quite sure our backpack of knowledge is all filled up. Have a wonderful school year, and thank you for reading!

-Desiree Bartels, StuCo Public Relations

M-PIE BOOKFAIR:

Our Book Fair is coming! The whole school is excited about our upcoming Book Fair. An amazing selection of books is headed our way! At the Book Fair you will find the latest and finest titles for kids, as well as books of interest to parents. Mark your calendar on Tuesday, September 21, 2010, from 1:00 to 9:00 PM for our family event where the whole family can join in the fun. And, you can contribute books to your child's classroom library. The Book Fair is a great way to get everyone excited about reading. See you there!

Love books? Volunteer to help at the Book Fair. You can decorate and set up, help kids select books, work on refreshments, give a book talk, or help pack up. There are lots of ways to participate. *Let us know if you can volunteer!*

M-PIE NEWS:

Meridian Partners-In-Education met August 24th, 2010. There are still pocket calendars available. If you are interested in a Meridian "Black" or "Red" T-shirt, cap, or Meridian cookbook, please contact Anna Wassom or Kathy Houser. They will be for sale at the first two home football and volleyball games. Sports button pictures were taken Thursday (August 26th) for grades 7-12. The buttons are for all sports. Their cost is \$3.00 each. We will not be doing buttons again this year. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 3rd, 2010.

M-PIE has assumed responsibility for collecting Campbell's Soup labels, Box Tops for Education and Sunny Delight wrappers. Please send any of these you collect to school with your child.

GOLF TOURNAMENT!!

Golf combines two favorite American pastimes—taking long walks and hitting things with sticks. Join the fun by helping the Meridian cheerleaders in their endeavor towards a 2011 State Cheer Championship. Meridian cheerleaders will be sponsoring a two couple scramble on September 19th, 2010, at Friend Country Club. Cost per person is \$25.00. Golf carts can be purchased at an additional cost. Registration will begin at 8:00 AM with tee off at 9:00 AM. Throughout the course lucky participants can win pin prizes. The cheerleaders would encourage every golfer to keep up their energy by purchasing lunch at the Country Club. RSVP is encouraged, but not required, to Deanna Brakhage at (402)243-2290 or Rene' Scheer at (402)749-3720. Gather your friends and enjoy a day of Mustang spirit! Oh yeah...PAY OUTS!

We would like to extend a sincere "Thank you" to Jefferson County Bank for once again sponsoring the red pocket calendars! The calendars are still available at Jefferson County Bank and at KT's Market in Western.

A heartfelt "thank you" to Doug Francis Farm Bureau for donating the pop corn sacks to be used in the Concession Stand! We appreciate your thoughtfulness!

