

# Tigerhawk Talk



April 2021

## Tigerhawks!!



**Erik Anderson**  
Superintendent

What a difference a year makes! A year ago we were navigating some unprecedented circumstances. Everyone was guessing at what might be best and trying to keep as much normalcy as possible. We now have a better grasp on what all this means and how

to handle it. I am continually reminded of how proud I am of our district each time I walk through our schools. Everyone has adjusted and made this work as best we can for our students.

We have received significant financial support from the federal government in supporting our schools. These funds are referred to ESSER II and ESSER III (ESSER stands for Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief). The money available is focused on supporting our students academic, as well as social-emotional and physical well-being. The money must be accounted for by the end of the 2022-2023 school year. We are finalizing plans on how to use this money to support our students. I firmly believe that when there is an issue, people help to address the need, not programs. Our plans are rooted in adding additional support for our kids over the next couple of years along with improving air quality and other needs.

Once we receive final notification of the specific dollars being allocated to Colfax-Mingo, I will share more in later newsletters the specific supports we will be providing.

One thing we will be providing is a more robust summer school for all school aged students from June 7 - July 2. We will focus our supports on students that have struggled to remain at the recommended academic standard. While the summer school option will not be mandatory, we will strongly encourage students recommended for support to participate. Summer school will look a little different at each building and grade level/content area, but in general it will run from 8 am - 1 pm. Lunch will be served and available as well. More to

come on this important opportunity soon.

Please take some time to celebrate the accomplishment our Tigerhawk students and staff have accomplished this year. Celebrating even small achievements will continue to move us forward through the end of this pandemic. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way."

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Remember, this is Tigerhawk country... Welcome home!

Take care,  
Erik Anderson

## From the CM School Board

*For each district newsletter in the 2021 calendar year, Directors will have a rotating board member write an article about pertinent Board discussion topics. This is the second of an ongoing series.*

**By Patrick Utz**

I have learned there are many misconceptions about the role of Iowa school board members after being on the board for the past four years. In short, our role is to work with the superintendent to set the direction and goals of the school through workshops, monthly board meetings, and sub-committee meetings (facilities, calendar, communication & promotion, negotiations, policy). We are also in charge of overseeing all

financials and legal obligations.

Misconceptions:

#1: We manage the entire staff at the school. The board must approve hires and resignations; however, our role is to look at the financial aspects of those decisions. Most of the interviews are held by the directors, principals, and superintendent that manage the day-to-day functions.

#2: School Finance. As a new board member, school finance was the most complicated topic to learn with different buckets of money and they are all funded differently (federal, state, sales tax, local property taxes, and the student activity fund). For example, purchasing new Chromebooks does not impact whether or not we can hire an additional staff member

as they come from different buckets of money.

#3: 7-0 votes must mean nobody is questioning anything! Typically the superintendent brings topics as discussion items during a workshop or board meeting prior to having it on the agenda as an action item to get a sense where the board members stand and what questions they have. The details and concerns get vetted out over the next month and are presented as action items at the next board meeting, often with changes and data to support the action. Thus, the board is often in agreement.

Hopefully our role is a little more clear! Ask us about it sometime if we cross paths. We enjoy talking to parents and community members about our role.

# Elementary School News



**Brian Summy**  
Elementary  
Principal

## Preschool & Kindergarten Registration & Information

April is here and it is time to start thinking about the 21-22 school year. The district is preparing for on-line registration for the upcoming school year. As of the newsletter deadline, no specific dates have been set for registration to begin. Registration will be open in April and information will be shared through the district website. We are also in the process of preparing parent information for our preschool, developmental kindergarten and kindergarten programs. This information will be shared through the website and printed information.

### Summer School- sign up & dates

It's time to begin planning for our summer school program. Registration information will be sent to families in April so we can finalize planning and staffing for the program Summer school dates will be June 7th-July 2nd.

The elementary participated in a Slide into Spring Break activity leading up to spring break. The final activity was students being selected to share a pie in the



face with a people of their choice. The pie winners were Mr. Anderson (superintendent), Mr. Summy (pk-6 principal), Ms. Tifini Dennis (paraeducator), Ms. Brittany Johnson (4th grade teacher) and SLT member Macie Porter. Thanks

to everyone who participated and made it special for the students!

### Upcoming Events:

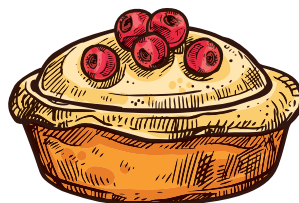
- **April 7th- Paraprofessional day**
  - Thank you to our hard working paraeducators that play a very valuable role in our school. Listed below are the elementary paraeducators.

- Scarlett Craig, Amy Forschler, Lila Maher, Donna Teed, Meghann Hernandez, Cheyenne Klaassen, Tifini Dennis, Christina Villegas, Beth Slacum, Candice Kite, Jessica James, Deanna Cross, Traci Dunsbergen, Carrie Chadwick, Stacey Hardney, Heather Peterson, Tina Parks, and our long term sub Angie Shepley.

- **April 21st- Administrative Assistant Day**

Thanks to Annette McGill, Carrie Chadwick and Nurse Lindsey Cummings for all they do in the office area!

- **ISASP (grades 3-6) May 3rd-7th**
- **Final FAST testing will begin for grades K-2 May 3rd and grades 3-6 May 10th.**
- **Track & Field Day (Mon, May 24th Rain Tues, May 25th) Place & time to be determined.**





# Dr. Seuss on the Loose in Preschool

Mrs. Fritch, Mrs. Ament,  
Mrs. Rice



During the month of March, Preschool celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by reading the book *Cat in the Hat* and having a special visit from the *Cat in the Hat* along with *Thing 1* and *Thing 2*.

We also read a few other books such as "*The Tooth Book*", "*One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*", "*What Pet Should I Get?*", and "*Mr. Brown Can Moo, Can You?*" We also read "*Green Eggs and Ham*", then made our own for snack.

It has been a "Seuss-Tastical" month of March in Preschool!

## Elementary PE

Jeff Lindsay

As we enter the month of April, most are counting down till summer, but I'm going to go back to the beginning of the school year. I don't think this could be said enough, but I was so happy to see the kids again and hear their stories.

When we started the school year we knew there were going to be changes that we would have to make in the Phys. Ed. area. This was going to be something new for all of us. Change is not always easy, but I couldn't be more proud of

the students and how they kept an open mind, positive attitude, and just went with it. At the beginning of school we got outside as much as possible. This way the students would be able to keep social-distance and still be able to get plenty of exercise and activity which gave extra work on their motor skills. We were able to stretch that well into November.

Once we had to come inside for class, we had activities that had limited use of equipment. A good portion were new activities with a few old ones sprinkled in and some favorites that unfortunately

could not be played. To the student's credit there was no complaining and they went with the flow and put forth their best efforts. As we got a little closer to Christmas break we decided to open up the use of more equipment, clean when done using it, and see how it went. To this point it has been great. I am so proud of all the students that want to step up and volunteer at the end of class to help clean the equipment for the next class to use. Moving forward we look to continue to have a safe, positive, and productive finish to the school year.



# Jr/Sr High School News

## Principal's Corner



Todd Jones  
Jr/Sr High  
School Principal

### Parent/Teacher Conferences

Thank you all who participated in our Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences. We had a good turnout this spring. I was not sure how it would go with conferences being online for all the meetings. We actually had a better turnout this spring than we normally do

this time of year. I think this was a good sign. I am not sure how conferences would be run in the future, but the virtual meetings seemed to be a good option. We had much better participation on the night we did not have combined conferences with the elementary. This did surprise me a bit, but we were happy with our overall turnout.

### Third Quarter Ends

It is hard to believe, but the third quarter comes to an end on Friday, March 26.

That is right, we are now three-quarters of the way through maybe the hardest school years in many years. It has been one year since we first closed down for Covid. This spring feels like there is an end in sight. Let's all keep our heads up and finish this year strong.

### PROM

This year's Prom will be held on Saturday, April 17. Walkthrough this year will be for families only and all spectators must wear masks

while in the building. The Juniors and Seniors will not need to wear their masks while they are in the process of the walkthrough so pictures can be taken by parents. The dance will begin at 8:00 pm and run to 11:30 pm. All participants will need to wear a mask while in the building, but breaks will be given throughout the night so participants can have time outside without their masks. The "After Prom" will follow Prom.

## A Quick Thank You



Erin Hume  
Activities Director

Now with three seasons in the books since the start of the global pandemic, I wanted to thank everyone who has made it possible for our students to compete. Knowing the risk and knowing the extra precautions necessary, the community, parents, kids, the coaches, everyone has stepped up and made it possible.

The biggest thank you goes to the kids for working as hard as they have and going along with the masks and all of the sanitizing breaks during practices and games. Your support for your teammates and coaches did not go unseen. The fact that while they might not have liked it, they did it. When you couple learning how our kids had to with the changes in their activities, our students have done all of this with a great attitude, and tremendous effort shows just what we all know. We have great kids at Colfax-Mingo.

I, for one, am excited that after a year, we're back to where we started, and our spring activities can get rolling and make up for the lost season. If you have the opportunity to make it to a track meet, a soccer game, or a golf tournament, please do it. These kids did not get their chance to compete last spring, and showing up to support them would mean a lot.

Once again, thank you to everyone who has helped get us through the school year, and thank you to the students for your leadership, flexibility, and patience throughout the year. It has been greatly appreciated.

*A Great Big*  
**THANK YOU**

# APRIL 2021

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 90 Minutes Delay for School  Para Professional Day	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 90 Minutes Delay for School	15	16	17  PROM Dance 8-11pm
18	19 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 6 PM	20	21 90 Minutes Delay for School  Admin Day	22	23	24
25	26 NO SCHOOL	27	28 90 Minutes Delay for School	29	30	

**Note: Activity Events change often. Please go to the school webpage under the Parents dropdown. Go down to Colfax-Mingo Athletics. You can visit the SICL website. Click on Member Schools on the top tab. To the right of the page you can see Calendar of events. Click on Colfax-Mingo for all information regarding the Colfax-Mingo calendar of events.**

Children may have their choice of the breakfast menu, cereal & toast, fruit, juice & milk everyday.  
Breakfast served 7:45 am to 8:10 am daily.

*Colfax-Mingo CSD April 2021 Menu*

<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
			1 B – Muffin & Yogurt	2 B – Mini Cinni
			Popcorn Chicken Mashed Potatoes Broccoli Biscuit Fruit Choice Milk	Italian Dunkers Garden Salad Corn Apple Wedges Milk
5 B - Donut	6 B - French Toast Sticks Walking Taco Lettuce/Tomato Cheese/Salsa Corn & Black Beans Rice Pineapple Milk	7 B – Grab n Go	8 B - Coffee Cake	9 B – Mini Pancakes
Chicken Patty/WG Bun Potato Smiles Mini Carrots Pears Milk		Deli Sub Baked Beans Potato Triangle Peaches Milk	Chicken Strips Potatoes Au Gratin Fresh Vegetable Salad Wheat Roll Applesauce Milk	Pulled Pork Sandwich French Fries Creamy Coleslaw Mandarin Oranges Milk
12 B – Breakfast Bites	13 B – Biscuit & Gravy	14 B – Grab n Go	15 B – Mini Donuts	16 B - Breakfast Pizza
Meatball Sub Mixed Greens Salad Sweet Potato Fries Mixed Fruit Milk	Chicken & Rice Broccoli Salad Mixed Vegetables Egg Roll (7-12) Pineapple Milk	Pork Fritter/WG Bun Curly Fries Baked Beans Orange Wedges Milk	Corndog Tossed Salad w/ Romaine Vegetable Choice Pears Dessert (7-12) Milk	Chicken Drumstick Mashed Potatoes Biscuit Green Beans Rosy Applesauce Milk
19 B - Breakfast Wrap	20 B - Mini Bagels	21 B - Grab n Go	22 B - Breakfast Sandwich	23 B - Mini Waffles
Cheeseburger/WG Bun Potato Wedges Baked Beans Peaches Milk	Soft Shell Taco Mexi Corn Veg Choice (HS) Rice Grapes Milk	Pig in the Blanket Tater Tots Green Beans Apple Wedges Milk	Chicken Alfredo Spinach Salad w/ Grape Tomatoes Mini Carrots Garlic Toast Fruit Choice Milk	Pizza Garden Salad Seasoned Peas Strawberries Dessert Milk
26 No School	27 B – Muffin & Yogurt	28 B – Grab n Go	29 B - Breakfast Pizza	30 B – Long John
	Italian Chicken Sandwich Mixed Greens Salad Sweet Potato Fries Banana Milk	Crispito w/ Cheese & Lettuce Corn Refried Beans Mixed Fruit Milk	Cooks' Choice	Mr. Rib Waffle Fries Mixed Vegetables Mandarin Oranges Banana Bar (HS) Milk
<p>*Milk (skim, choc skim &amp; 1%) *Menu is subject to change * Breakfast includes entrée, fruit/fruit juice &amp; milk. Additional options at the JH/HS. <i>This institution is an equal opportunity provider.</i></p>				

It is the policy of the Colfax-Mingo Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socio-economic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact Erik Anderson, Superintendent, 1000 North Walnut, Colfax, IA 50054. Telephone: 515-674-3646; Email: erik.anderson@colfaxmingo.org

Colfax-Mingo Community School District Newsletter

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Deadline for copy and photos is the 20th of each month. Newsletter Designer • Dana J. King School Facilitator • Bert Deaton

**Iowa Nondiscrimination Statement**

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