

# Tigerhawk Talk



November 2023

## If I had 3 wishes...



Tim Salmon  
Superintendent

Wouldn't it be fantastic if a genie showed up in a bottle and granted three wishes? As I look towards our future as a district,

there are many things that run through my brain that would positively impact our students, staff and community. We have already started working on some of those items. That includes the starting of Teammates mentoring that just kicked off this month. This program will pair community members with students to build a positive relationship and impact each other's lives. Be on the lookout for more information coming about this wonderful program.

The school board has been busy seeking input and the new fitness center is opening early November and will provide an opportunity for our community and students to workout. We are so fortunate to have a facility in our community that will be accessible. Speaking of the school board, elections will be held on November 7th and we have twelve candidates vying for six position. It's great to see community members wanting to be part

of the board and serve our community.

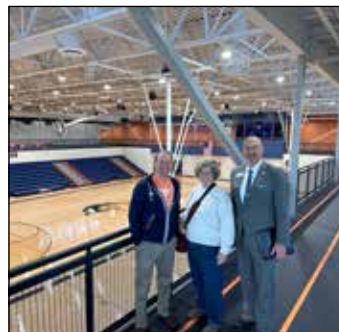
Now, let's talk about those three wishes. Since I've started working in the district, I have spent a lot of time listening, observing and asking questions. One thing that I have heard consistently is that we need more childcare in the community and I couldn't agree more. My first goal is to determine the capacity of the school district along with the community to provide affordable, consistent childcare, including before and after school. Second, we need to look at alternative programming for students. The traditional school system works for the vast majority of students, but not all. We need a place that will meet student needs and ensure their success. Third, I would love to expand our full-day preschool program. We opened one section this past year and the demand for it was more than we could take.

These are goals that I have that will take time, resources and board approval to get them started. Wishes remain wishes until we take steps to make them reality. Now we will start working those next steps and determine what is feasible. I'm sure you have wishes for our district as well, please feel free to share them with me when you get a chance.

## IASB executive director visits CM

D.T. Magee, the new executive director for the Iowa Association of School Boards, is visiting the board of director's home school districts. Mary Poulter, local school board member, is the District 5 representative.

On Oct. 18, Magee met with Poulter and Colfax-Mingo Superintendent Tim Salmon, who joined him as he toured all four school sites as well as the athletic facilities.



Above, left: C-M Superintendent Tim Salmon, school board member Mary Poulter and IASB Executive Director D.T. Magee stop by the new gym during a recent tour. Above, right: Magee is shown visiting art teacher Jeff Sontag's room during the tour.

## Wear Orange Day



Colfax Mingo Community School Administrative Offices participating in "Wear Orange" for Unity Day.

# Colfax-Mingo School Board Election Nov. 7

*Be sure to vote!*



Early voting available at the Jasper County Auditors Office in Newton or you can call the Auditor's office for an absentee ballot mailed to you — 641-792-7016

A Colfax Mingo Board Election Forum was held at the Colfax Mingo High School Cafeteria Monday, October 23 at 7 pm with a large crowd attending. All individuals running for the elected positions were in attendance and all were asked seven questions for them to answer..

## **School Board positions are as follows:**

At-Large: 2 years, 1 position  
Patrick Utz

At-Large: 4 years, 2 positions  
Shannon Boehm  
Dawn Gibson  
Melissa Cooper  
Cody Dyer  
Jim Tomlonovic

District 1: 2 years, 1 position  
Kendra Perry  
Betty Brant

District 2: 4 years, 1 position  
Mardell Tomlonovic  
Jennifer Everett  
Ashley Vander Schoor

District 3: 4 years, 1 position  
Mary Poulter



# Elementary School News



**Brian Summy**  
Elementary  
Principal

November is here and just like that we have completed one third of the school year! The beginning of the school year always goes fast and everyone is busy. The weather is beginning to change and the daylight becomes less each day. Now it's time for parent-teacher conferences. The elementary conferences are scheduled for Thursday, November 9th and Tuesday, November 14th. There is an additional early out on Thursday, November 16th for conferences at the Jr/Sr. High.

Attendance at the elementary is off to a great start! Let's keep that positive momentum going. The average daily attendance rate is currently at 96.5%. Our goal is to keep it above 95% for the year. This is the time of the year that we see more absences across the building. Please make attending school a priority and communicate when your student is absent.

Did you know?

- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.

- Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read.

- Students can still fall behind if they miss just one or two days every few weeks.

- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.

- Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Visit Attendance Works at [www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org) for more information.

**WHO WANTS A DONUT?!** The elementary is bringing back family donut time to the elementary. Families will receive an invitation to join us the first Friday of the month for a donut during breakfast. Breakfast will begin at 7:30 and wrap up at 8:00. Staff will be around to visit and answer questions you may have. You will be welcome to join our Friday Morning Welcome that day. The staff greets the students with music and high

fives each Friday. Watch for your invitation. We will divide families evenly over the remaining 7 months.

November Activities at the elementary:

- November 2nd: 2nd grade to the Des Moines Playhouse for Seussical The Musical

- November 6th: No School- Staff Professional Development Day

- November 9th: 1 hour early dismissal for elementary and secondary parent-teacher conferences

- November 14th: 1 hour early dismissal for elementary parent-teacher conferences

- November 14th: school picture retake day

- November 16th: 1 hour early dismissal for parent-teacher conferences at the secondary school

- November 17th: Elementary monthly assembly

- November 20th: 5th grade to JA Biztown

- November 22-24: NO SCHOOL

## 6th Graders Visit Mariposa

By Mr. Teed and Mrs. Weber

The Colfax-Mingo sixth grade classes spent a beautiful September day conducting environmental investigations at Mariposa County Park northeast of Newton. The outdoor education opportunity was led by Jasper County naturalists, Katie Cantu and Greg Oldsen. Students participated in many activities at Mariposa that aligned with the Iowa Core science standards - Earth and Human Activity and Engineering Designs. Students learned about the Mariposa watershed and how it affects the water quality in our lakes and streams. The students enjoyed a hike around Mariposa where they learned about native grasses and plants. Students collected water samples from the lake and conducted water tests to determine the water quality at Mariposa. The students also enjoyed doing a pond netting activity in which many unique creatures were collected from the lake. Students were able to identify those creatures and learn how they are affected by the water quality at Mariposa.





# Unity Day

By Bree Skow

Unity Day was Wednesday, October 18th. Each year on Unity Day we wear orange and participate in a variety of activities to celebrate and encour-

age kindness, acceptance, and inclusion to send a visible message that no child should ever experience bullying.

This year we were pleased to get more family and community involvement. Families

filled out an orange link with a message of kindness on it and sent it to school for each student to add to their class unity chain. We connected all of the unity chains as a school to make one massive chain that symbolizes our unity and

connection. Students spent the rest of their day listening to stories from guest readers, watching videos about kindness, and creating posters with positive messages for our Honk & Wave. We can't wait for next year!



**Mingo  
Men's Club  
Punt, Pass  
& Kick  
winners**





## Jr/Sr High School News

### From the Desk of Mrs. Lancaster:



**Alex Lancaster**  
Jr/Sr High School  
Principal

Happy Fall, Tigerhawks! We have had a great start to the year at the secondary building! Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we work to create and sustain a positive learning environment for all of our students.

I want to highlight some celebrations and upcoming information as we transition into November and the end of our first trimester.

#### **Celebrating our Daily Attendance Success**

First and foremost, I am thrilled to report that our 30-day daily attendance rate was an impressive 93%! Last year, we were averaging 90%, so this is definitely something to celebrate! This is a significant accom-

plishment, and it reflects the commitment of our students, the support of our parents and guardians, and the hard work of our staff. Regular school attendance has been shown to improve academic performance, self-confidence, and positive relationships with peers and staff. We are seeing a slight decrease in our daily attendance numbers, so please continue discussing the importance of consistent attendance with your student and celebrating this accomplishment!

#### **Upcoming Events in November**

As we look ahead to November, we have several exciting events on the horizon:

- November 9 & 16: Parent-Teacher Conferences from 4:00-8:00pm. This is an open house format, so feel free to attend

anytime (no appointment necessary!). We will also have your student's assessment data from the fall MAP tests!

- We will host our annual Veterans Day assembly on November 10 at 8:35am in the new gym. All members of our community are welcome to attend! The Veterans' Breakfast will be served at 7:15am in the high school cafeteria.

- College and Career Fair: On November 10, from 2:00pm to 3:15pm, we will host a College and Career Fair for our high school students. It's a valuable event that offers insights into various educational and career opportunities. We have over 30+ exhibits for students to explore!

Thank you for your ongoing support and involvement in our school. Here's to a successful November!

# NOVEMBER 2023

| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i>   | <i>Tuesday</i>   | <i>Wednesday</i>   | <i>Thursday</i>  | <i>Friday</i>  | <i>Saturday</i> |
|---------------|---|--|--|--|--|-----------------|
|               |   |  | 1<br>90 MINUTE<br>LATE START   | 2<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade to<br>Des Moines<br>Playhouse   | 3  | 4               |
| 5             | 6<br><b><u>NO SCHOOL</u></b><br>TEACHER<br>PROFESSIONAL<br>DEVELOPMENT<br><br>NO BOARD WORK<br>SESSION MEETING    | 7  | 8<br>90 MINUTE<br>LATE START<br><br>ATHLETIC<br>BOOSTER CLUB<br>MEETING 6 pm | 9<br><b><u>1 Hr Early</u></b><br><b><u>Dismissal</u></b> for<br>Elementary &<br>Secondary<br>Parent-Teacher<br>Conferences<br>4-8 pm | 10<br>End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Trimester<br><br>Veteran's Day<br>Celebration<br>8:35 a.m. in the<br>new gym<br><br>Veteran's Break-<br>fast served at<br>7:15 am<br><br>College Career<br>Fair 2-3:15 pm | 11              |
| 12            | 13  | 14<br>JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL<br><b><u>SICL HONOR BAND</u></b><br>LYNNEVILLE-SULLY<br>CONCERT 7 PM<br>\$5 ADMISSION<br><br>School Picture<br>Retake Day<br><br><u>1-hr early dismissal</u> for<br>Elementary P-T<br>Conferences 4-8 pm | 15<br>90 MINUTE<br>LATE START  | 16<br><b><u>1 Hr Early</u></b><br><b><u>Dismissal</u></b> for<br>Secondary<br>Parent-Teacher<br>Conferences<br>4-8 pm                | 17<br><b>Elementary<br/>Monthly Assembly</b>   | 18              |
| 19            | 20<br><b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade to JA<br/>Biztown</b><br><br>REGULARLY<br>SCHEDULED<br>SCHOOL BOARD<br>MEETING 6 PM | 21   | 22<br><b><u>NO SCHOOL</u></b><br>THANKSGIVING<br>BREAK                       | 23<br><b><u>NO SCHOOL</u></b><br>THANKSGIVING<br>BREAK   | 24<br><b><u>NO SCHOOL</u></b><br>THANKSGIVING<br>BREAK   | 25              |
| 26            | 27  | 28   | 29<br>90 MINUTE<br>LATE START  | 30   |  |                 |



## Colfax-Mingo CSD November 2023 Menu

| Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday   |
|--|--|---|---|--|
|  |  | 1<br>B – Grab n Go  | 2<br>B – Coffee Cake  | 3<br>B - French Toast Sticks   |
|  |  | Italian Dunkers<br>w/ Marinara<br>Garden Salad<br>Steamed Broccoli<br>Pears<br>Milk                             | Walking Taco<br>Lettuce/Tomato<br>Cheese/Salsa<br>Black Beans & Corn<br>Rice (JH/HS)<br>Pineapple<br>Milk                   | Pulled Pork Sandwich<br>French Fries<br>Creamy Coleslaw<br>Mandarin Oranges<br>Milk  |
| 6<br><br>No School   | 7<br>B – Breakfast Bar<br><br>Pork Fritter/WG Bun<br>Curly Fries<br>Baked Beans<br>Orange Wedges<br>Milk                                   | 8<br>B – Grab n Go<br><br>Chicken & Rice<br>Egg Roll<br>Broccoli Salad<br>Mixed Vegetables<br>Pineapple<br>Milk | 9<br>B – Breakfast Pizza<br><br>Spaghetti<br>Mixed Greens Salad<br>Seasoned Peas<br>Garlic Bread<br>Peaches<br>Milk         | 10<br>B – Mini Donuts<br>Meatball Sub<br>Tossed Salad w/<br>Romaine<br>Sweet Potato Fries<br>Mixed Fruit<br>Dessert (HS)<br>Milk |
| 13<br>B – Mini Cinni<br><br>Cheeseburger/WG Bun<br>Potato Smiles<br>Corn<br>Apple<br>Milk                        | 14<br>B – Breakfast Sandwich<br><br>Chicken Alfredo<br>Spinach Salad w/<br>Cherry Tomatoes<br>Mini Carrots<br>Breadstick<br>Banana<br>Milk | 15<br>B – Grab n Go<br><br>Pizza Crunchers<br>Garden Salad<br>Seasoned Peas<br>Strawberries<br>Milk             | 16<br>B – Long John<br><br>Turkey & Gravy<br>Mashed Potatoes<br>Green Beans<br>Biscuit<br>Applesauce<br>Pumpkin Bar<br>Milk | 17<br>B – Breakfast Bagel<br><br>Hotdog/WG Bun<br>Tater Tots<br>Baked Beans<br>Mandarin Oranges<br>Milk                          |
| 20<br>B – Choice<br><br>Italian Chicken<br>Sandwich<br>Mixed Greens Salad<br>Sweet Potato Fries<br>Pears<br>Milk | 21<br>B – Cereal/Toast<br><br>Crispito w/<br>Cheese & Lettuce<br>Corn<br>Vegetable Choice<br>Fruit Choice<br>Milk                          | 22<br><br>No School   | 23<br><br>No School<br>Thanksgiving   | 24<br><br>No School  |
| 27<br>B – Pancakes<br><br>Corndog<br>Waffle Fries<br>Baked Beans<br>Macaroni Salad<br>Peaches<br>Milk            | 28<br>B – Cinnamon Roll<br><br>Super Nachos<br>Bean/Cheese/Salsa<br>Corn<br>Rosy Applesauce<br>Milk  | 29<br>B – Grab n Go<br><br>Cheese Steak Sandwich<br>Seasoned Wedges<br>Mini Carrots<br>Grapes<br>Milk           | 30<br>B – Muffin & Yogurt<br><br>Pasta Bake<br>Tossed Salad<br>Broccoli Salad<br>Garlic Bread<br>Mixed Fruit<br>Milk        |  |

\*Milk (skim, choc skim & 1%) \*Menu is subject to change

\* Breakfast includes entrée, fruit/fruit juice & milk. Additional options at the JH/HS.

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

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Colfax-Mingo Community School District Newsletter

# Tigerhawk Talk



Deadline for copy is the third Friday of the month.

Newsletter Designer • Dana J. King

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