

Spring Ridge Review



September 2010

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**This year's school
theme:**

***Learning...
Capture the
Adventure!***

A September Message from Mr. Pechous

Dear Spring Ridge Parents and Students,
Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year at Spring Ridge Elementary School! We are looking forward to a great year of learning. It is my privilege to work side-by-side with an outstanding group of teachers who are dedicated and committed to helping each child value learning and reach academic and social success.

At the heart of any successful school is the time and dedication given by parents in support of their child's school. One of the most impressive things about Spring Ridge Elementary continues to be the overwhelming parent and community interest and support in school activities. Nearly 96% of the Spring Ridge families attended Open House on August 17 . . . that is very impressive! Please accept my invitation to get involved by participating in the Spring Ridge PTO, volunteering for special projects and activities, visiting your child's classroom, and encouraging your child to share events and activities of the day with you. You are an important part of our educational team!

Your children did an outstanding job during the first few weeks of school. Students came eager to learn, set new goals, renew old friendships and establish new ones. Students continue to demonstrate behaviors that exemplify the expected Spring Ridge classroom and school standards.

The staff at Spring Ridge Elementary and I look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead for a successful 2010-2011 school year! We pledge that our curriculum and methodologies will engage and challenge our students to reach new heights. Thank you for the continued support and I look forward to another rewarding year at Spring Ridge. My door is always open should you have any questions or concerns.

Don Pechous
Spring Ridge Principal

Curriculum Night Scheduled

The Spring Ridge Curriculum Night (1st – 5th Grade) is scheduled for Monday, September 13. There will be two identical sessions for each grade level. The first session begins at 6:30 p.m. and the second session begins at 7:00 p.m.

This is a great opportunity for parents to learn about their child's curriculum and the projects and activities they will be participating in during the school year. Please join us for this important night!

Don't Forget!

Donuts for Dad is coming Wednesday, October 20! You won't want to miss the Krispy Kreme donuts, coffee and juice. Come enjoy a special moment with your child!

The **Spring Ridge Review** is a monthly newsletter published by the staff and volunteers of Spring Ridge Elementary School, - Elkhorn Public Schools in Omaha, Nebraska. Article submissions are due on the 20th of each month.

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First Day of School has a Festive Start

The first day of school was a huge success! The school looked festive and the kids almost forgot that summer was over amidst the balloons, music and bubbles! A huge thanks goes out to Hy-Vee at 180th and Q for donating over 20 dozen balloons. We would also like to recognize the following women and their artistic children: Beth Boler, Lynn Cordell, Jen Dowd, Jessica Freedman, Shelley Gates, Jen Goble, Shelley Grawe, Monica Imhoff-Sackett, Nikki Kirshenbaum, Kristin Lewis, Leslie Mayo, Evelyn Millward, Robyn Slunecka and Kelli Steidle. We would also like to thank Mrs. Wahl for being the Eagle.

Christy Clement and Mary Wilson - committee chairs



Attention Budding Photographers!

The Spring Ridge Yearbook Committee needs your help!

If you are interested in taking pictures for the yearbook, please contact Shelley Gates (sgates2@cox.net) or Robyn Slunecka (rslunecka@cox.net). We are currently on the look-out for pictures from the first day of school, so if you have any that you'd like to submit, please do so! Just remember to include the names and grades of the students in the pictures.

School Improvement Update

As many of you know, the Elkhorn Public Schools earned AdvancED accreditation last year. This was no small feat and we are proud of our accomplishments. We thank you, our families, friends, and community members who supported us through this exciting endeavor. However, just because we earned accreditation doesn't mean our focus on student learning comes to a halt! Instead we are committed to continuous improvement through a school improvement cycle. This year, we will be analyzing data to determine a school-wide goal. In addition, we will continue implementing the Pyramid Response to Intervention (PRTI). PRTI has been introduced at Spring Ridge Elementary over the last few years. As a staff we will offer research-based academic and behavior interventions as a requirement for students struggling in a specific area. We have incorporated PRTI into our daily schedule through a differentiation block. During this time, students could receive differentiated instruction or research-based interventions as needed. Reading Intervention Bins or Reading Mastery/Corrective Reading are two of the avenues that we have chosen to provide the interventions that are needed for students struggling to master the difficult art of reading. You can rest assured that we are going to do everything we can to see that your student is successful.

The Reading Intervention Bins provide students with activities focused on fluency and comprehension, while the Reading Mastery/Corrective Reading series is a research-based, highly acclaimed series with over 30 years of proven success. It focuses on the five big ideas of reading: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Through direct instruction, the curriculum allows students to move ahead according to their ability and it provides intense remediation for the struggling student. Should your child need this type of intervention, you will be notified, as we believe forming a strong partnership with you, the parents, is critical to the success of all students. Last year we saw excellent results. We are sure you will be pleased with the progress of your child should he or she needs this type of intervention.

Calling All Volunteers!

Your child should have brought home a "Spring Ridge Elementary Volunteer Form 2010-2011" during the first week of school. This form is used to assist in the classrooms (during classes and parties) and workroom, as well as helping with miscellaneous volunteer opportunities (taking photos, health screenings, fun day, etc.)

HELP SPRING RIDGE EARN EASY \$\$!

With Hy-Vee's new "Cash for Students" program, Spring Ridge can earn \$1 for every \$200 in Hy-Vee purchases simply by submitting receipts showing any Hy-Vee purchases such as food, gas and pharmacy. From September 1 through December 31, have your student turn the receipts into their teacher and we will take care of the rest. Ask your friends, family and neighbors to save theirs too - this is a great way for them to help contribute without any out-of-pocket expense!

For Spring Ridge Parents....

Helpful Reminders

The beginning of the school year is a great time to remind students and parents about general procedures followed at school each day. These will help ensure a successful day and year for children, families, and teachers. Thank you!

1. Look through your child's backpack and review the items each day with your child.
2. Help your child remember to return papers as they are due.
3. Help your child arrive to school on time.
4. Call the office 637-0204 each day your child will be tardy or absent.
5. Sign in at the office and wear a visitor's badge every time you are in the building.
6. Deliver forgotten items to the office, not the classroom.
7. Send a note with your child if he/she is doing something different after school (car pooling instead of walking, etc.).
8. Come into the office to sign your student out during the day.
9. Join us for lunch, but please don't bring food from outside vendors.
10. When bringing in snacks for the classroom, only bring in store-purchased items with ingredients labeled.

Please Sign in at the Office

All visitors (including parents) who enter the building must sign in at the office. This procedure is in place as a part of our safety plan. This includes parents walking their children to their classrooms in the morning. I encourage you to have your children walk to their classrooms themselves after you drop them off in the morning. It instills a sense of independence for them.

Traffic Reminders

It's no secret that Spring Ridge Elementary is not the easiest place to navigate when dropping off and picking up children. Even veteran Spring Ridge parents find it easy to forget the specifics of daily drop-off and pick-up. The utmost priority is the safety of our children. One accident at the school is one too many.

Please take the time to refer to the important information included in the Spring Ridge safety policies. Remember, these policies are in place for one very specific reason-ensuring the wellbeing of our kids. Here are a few of the basic reminders:

Morning Drop-off Procedures

1. Students may be dropped off curbside between the designated orange cones at the front of the building. Always enter the drive from the east and remain in the right lane (curbside). Keep moving forward as far as possible. Please stop only once between the orange cones.
2. Students may be dropped off along the west curb of 178th Street. Note 178th Street is a one-way north between the hours of 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Students may use the sidewalk along the staff parking lot or the sidewalk along the front of the building to bring them to the appropriate entrance. Please do not use the staff parking lot to drop off or pick up students.

Afternoon Pick-up Procedures

1. Students are to be picked up curbside at the front entrance of the building. Always enter the front drive from the east and remain in the right lane (curbside). Keep moving forward as far as possible, picking up children between designated cones. Please do not use the drive-through lane for picking up children. Students are not allowed to walk through traffic. Please do not leave your car unattended if you are parked curbside as this disrupts the flow of traffic.
2. Students may be picked up along the west curb of 178th Street.

Please do not park in front of a safety cross walk. This places our safety patrol students in a dangerous position. The parked cars can obstruct the view of on-coming traffic. Thank you!

Lots in Store this Fall...

September is here and hopefully we have all returned to our school year routines. Soon the leaves will be turning and we will be pulling out our sweaters and preparing for fall activities like high school football games and choosing Halloween costumes. How time does fly!

First a few thank yous are in order. Thank you to Kelli Steidle who chaired and presented at our New Family Welcome program. I would also like to thank the First Day of School committee co-chairs, Chirsty Clement and Mary Wilson for all their time and effort toward decorating the school and making the first day special for Spring Ridge students and their families. What a wonderful start to the new school year.

PTO Meeting

Please join us for our first **PTO meeting** of the year on **Tuesday, September 7 at 7:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held in the school library and child care will be provided. Attending the PTO meeting is the best way to stay up-to-date on the current issues and events happening at school. The meeting includes reports from the principal, teachers, and committee chairs. Questions and suggestions are always welcome so please consider attending the meeting. The fall is full of several events for Spring Ridge students and families so please join us on September 7.

Walk-A-Thon

Co-chairs Danielle Bunz and Jessica Freedman have already put a lot of work into organizing and preparing the **3rd Walk-A-Thon** for Spring Ridge which will be held on **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 from 6 to 8 p.m.** Please join us for this event where families walk together, enjoy dinner and music with a d.j. following the meal. The Walk-A-Thon is raising money for our school technology goal of providing all classrooms with a variety of smart boards, document cameras and projectors. This event is a great opportunity for students and families to mingle and enjoy each other's company. There is no school the following day, Friday, September 17. So come and enjoy a great evening!

Remember if you have any questions regarding the PTO or the events we sponsor, please visit our website at www.springridgepto.com.

Abby Devin
 Spring Ridge PTO President
adevin@cox.net
 334-7073

1. September 7, PTO meeting 7:00 p.m.
2. September 16, Walk-A-Thon 6:00-8:00 p.m

...at Spring Ridge PTO

Calendar of Events

Sept. 1-2	5 th grade Outdoor Education
7	PTO, 7:00 p.m.
13	Curriculum Night (First – Fifth Grade) 6:30
16	Walk-A-Thon, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
17	No School, elementary students only
22	Mid-quarters
27	No School, In-Service

Counselor's Corner

"Life doesn't require that we be the best, only that we try our best."

--H. Jackson Brown Jr.

To be successful in school requires certain skills. Researchers say that the skills most predictive of long-term success fall under the headings of learning skills, social skills and self-management skills. The most critical skills include listening, attending and strategies for learning and problem solving, communication and social/teamwork skills. These along with foundational skills will help to assure success.

We have all heard that it takes a village to raise a child. Every person that touches your child's life will play a vital role in assisting them to become successful. We are incorporating a new curriculum in guidance that will address the skills necessary for success. Hopefully, your child will share the things that they will be learning. Kindergarten, second and fourth grades will be introduced to this curriculum during the month of September. Grades one, three and five will follow in the month of October. Of course, this is a supplement to all that they are learning at home and in the classroom. Together everyone accomplishes more and it definitely takes teamwork to guide our children.

Thank you for sending such great children to Spring Ridge. This is an exciting beginning to a new school year. We all look forward to a new adventure.

Please note the following opportunity if you are interested:

FREE EDUCATION SESSION FOR PARENTS

HELPING CHILDREN COPE WITH SEPARATION ANXIETY

Monday, September 20 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Loren Conaway, Ph.D, Children's behavioral health will present information, lead discussion and answer questions related to children's behavior. Open to all parents.

Session will be held at Children's Behavioral Health

1000 North 90th St, Suite 200, Omaha, NE

Call 800-833-3100 to register

Peggy Bertucci, Counselor



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www.elkhornfoundation.org

We're flipping over video recorders, connecting readers with authors, making brains pop – these are just a few of over 80 creative ideas our Elkhorn Public Schools teachers have submitted as classroom grant ideas! Over \$125,000 has been requested in grants to enhance our students' learning opportunities – we hope to fund these with the support of folks like you! Please visit our website at www.elkhornfoundation.org for more information on our classroom grant projects; your contribution is tax-deductible and will be recognized (with your permission) at our annual Hall of Fame Banquet.

Our sixteenth annual Hall of Fame Banquet will be held Sunday, October 24th, 2010 at Elkhorn South High School – join us for an evening of Elkhorn camaraderie as we honor community members and educators, and award classroom grants. If you would like to nominate a favorite teacher, volunteer, etc., for the Hall of Fame, or would like ticket information, please visit our website or contact me at 289-1727, ext. 202.

Our before and after school childcare program, Kids Campus, is serving over 700 children in each of our elementary schools. We are also excited to offer ACE, our after school enrichment program for our middle school students. For more information on these programs and job opportunities within each, contact Amy or me at 289-1727.

When considering a donation to our Foundation, please also check with your place of business – many times they will match your donation, as we are a 501c3 organization. It's a great way to double your impact! Also, if your place of business participates in the United Way campaign, the Foundation has been designated as a United Way organization; please consider choosing us as one of the organizations you'd like to support.

The Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to encourage, support and recognize excellence in education, civic involvement and student achievement. Our hope is to make a difference in each student's life; give me a call at 289-1727, ext. 202 to find out how you can be a difference maker!

Kim Riggle
Executive Director
Elkhorn Public Schools Foundation