

Superintendent's Desk

The Hardin Northern Board of Education took action at their regular September Board meeting on a couple very exciting items related to upgrading facilities. The first was to approve the request for bids on an electronic sign for the front of our school. The sign will be double-sided in order to be seen from both directions on State Route 81. It will also have the capability of running both graphics and video. This should be installed prior to the end of the calendar year, December, 2016.

The second item was the purchase of property directly adjacent to our existing property. The Board approved the purchase of more or less 10 acres from the Haynes (Willeke) family that lie directly north of the existing property. While there is no road frontage with this purchase the Willeke family has agreed to provide an easement within the land deed at no additional cost to the district. This easement will allow access to the east side of the existing property.

Both of these facility updates are part of the district's strategic plan aimed at creating a safer and improved educational experience for students and increased communication with our public, parents, and community. The strategic plan was framed through a collaborative process involving community stakeholders, parents, and staff. Plans for the newly acquired land include: a new high school softball field, updating of the track to meet modern 400 meter and 8 lane regulations, additional room for track field events (discus throwing area), additional practice areas to relieve stress on baseball field (currently used for physical education and football practice), and a new and updated bus garage with additional storage.

The district has engaged an architectural firm to help district stakeholders further identify and prioritize long-term facility needs. If stakeholders in the community are interested in being a part of this discussion of priorities for land acquisition please contact Superintendent Jeff Price.



Elementary News

Cooperative learning is an educational approach that builds peer relationships and team development. It encourages students to work together to maximize their own and each other's learning. Cooperative learning has been shown as an effective way to help students feel more comfortable in a classroom and to get to know one another better. Mrs. Mast's 3rd grade class started off this semester with a few cooperative learning activities to build and promote a fun, fair, safe learning environment. One memorable activity was "Saving Fred" which involved a plastic cup, a gummy worm, paper clips, and gummy life saver. The students were presented with the following problem:

Poor Fred! He was sailing along on a boat (your plastic cup) when a strong wind blew it upside-down. Fred (your gummy worm) ended up on top of the upside-down boat. Unfortunately for Fred, his life preserver (your gummy life saver) is still trapped under the boat. Your job is to place the life preserver firmly around Fred's body, but you must obey three rules:

1. Fred may not fall into the "sea" (onto the table) more than one time; if he does, Fred "drowns."
2. You may not injure him in any way.
3. You may use only the four paper clips to move Fred, the boat, and the life preserver. You may not touch anything except the paper clips.
4. Once you are finished you must fill out a flow chart to show how you saved Fred with a detailed explanation of your steps.

Once students began, the bonds developed between team members were awesome to watch and motivated and strengthened our class bond. It was neat to watch the group's critical thinking and everyone participating all while increasing self-esteem and self-worth. As important as it is to teach state standards and curriculum it is just as important to teach our students how to work together and rely on one another to promote learning.



Project MORE



A BIG thank you to the following community and staff members who have volunteered their time to be a part of our reading program this year:

Denna Clem
Julie Emerine
Louise Gossard
Melinda Hipsher
Courtney McBride
Martha Stump
Sharon Thompson

Amy Dumbaugh
Linda Gibson
Kris Hastings
Madelyn Lowery
Nancy Musselman
Vet Stump
Darlene Wilson

If anyone is interested, I still have a Thursday, a Friday and an every-other Wednesday spot open. The program runs in our school library from 8:30-9:00. Please contact Clare Poling, (419)-759-2331 ext. 1406, if you are interested in becoming a mentor this year!



“A Murder Mystery” Dinner Theater

Hardin Northern drama students have been hard at work preparing a murder mystery dinner theater, *The Mafia Murders*. Dinner theater is a new venue for HN thespians. While the show is scripted, it allows for improvisation from the actors as well. While some students enjoy the freedom to improvise, others have found it challenging. "I love the freedom to ad lib on the spot" says David Allen. "It is also fun to mess with my cast mates and see if they can stay in character" continues Allen. Not only do the characters have the opportunity to improvise but the audience is invited to get involved as well. "This has definitely stretched me as an actress. You really have to know your character and be ready for anything" commented Lydia Rush. Set in the Roaring 20's, *The Mafia Murders* will be presented **October 15th** at Viva Maria Restaurant (the Don's secret speakeasy). "Preparing this show has been a real learning experience and a great fundraiser" says Garrett Eikenbary. "We get to raise money by having fun acting and it's better than always selling stuff" added Samuel Diller. Proceeds will be deposited into the HN Drama Fund. Seating is limited but tickets are still available. Call Mrs. Eikenbary at [419.759.2331](tel:419.759.2331) ext 1510 to reserve. Each \$15 ticket includes your meal and the drama.

HN Library

November is “Celebrate Reading Month” at HN! There will be a Scholastic Book Fair sponsored by the PTO, November 14-18. In addition, Mrs. Hipsher and Mrs. Wilson are planning activities in the library throughout the month to promote reading. There will also be a school-wide "Dress Like a Book Character Day," as well as “Teen Read Week” games and contests. Watch for more details coming home with your kids!



Junior High and High School Book Clubs started this week. Students bring their lunch to the library and take part in games and activities, and discuss what they are reading. We meet several times per month, and will also be planning special nights at the Hardin Northern Public Library, as well as “Teen Read Week” and “Celebrate Reading Month” activities. Past Book Clubs events have included Super Hero and Outer Space theme parties, movie nights, reading pillow and super hero necklace craft-days, and Polar Express hot chocolate parties. Book Club activities are funded through a grant from the Hardin County Community Foundation.

