



Hansen Elementary

VOLOUME 7, ISSUE 2



OCTOBER 15, 2016

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Principal's News

The big news for Hansen this month is the designation as a 2016 Blue Ribbon School! Hansen is being honored and recognized for its exemplary high achievement. We were nominated by the Iowa Department of Education and will join four other schools in the state of Iowa to receive this award in Washington D.C. on November 8.

Seven years ago Hansen Elementary embarked on a quest to meet the individual needs of students. We did this through an intensive study and implementation of IDM (Instructional Decision Making). Although the name changed to RTI (Response to Intervention) and now to MTSS (Mutli-Tiered Systems of Support) the meaning behind the framework remains the same, which is to match our instruction to the needs of each and every student in our school.

Currently every grade level has additional intervention / enrichment time set aside in both reading and math. This time is invaluable to students as it provides them with "just right" math and reading and gives teachers the opportunity to provide explicit instruction to students that are below or even above proficiency levels. This tailored instruction is a critical component in meeting our vision of providing ALL students with exceptional learning opportunities.

Thank you for the support you show our school! Please let me know if you every have questions or concerns! My door is always open!

~ Mrs. Tara Estep, Principal

Developing caring, responsible, active, self-directed lifelong learners.

UPCOMING

DATES

Red Ribbon Week	10/24-10/28
Halloween Parade/ Parties	10/28
5th Grade to GBPAC Rock the Presidents	11/3
Early Dismissal @ 12:00	11/4
5/6 Grade Vocal Concert @ HN	11/7
6th Grade to GBPAC Doktor Kaboom	11/8
PTA Meeting	11/10
5th/6th Orchestra Concert @ LN	11/10
Conferences/Book Fair 4:00-8:00	11/15
Conferences/Book Fair 1:00-8:00	11/18
No School : PD & Thanksgiving Break	11/23-11/25

5th Grade Prairie Visit

*Written by 5th
Graders:*

*Max Thompson and
Paige Sommerfeldt*

The fifth grade classes went to a prairie at Big Woods Lake. We had lots of fun learning about all the plants and animals. The week before we had been learning the plants and animals that live in the prairie. Someone found snakeskin and a decomposing mole. We saw many plants such as Big BlueStem, Wild Rose, and Milkweed. All of us went to the Indian Mound. Our teacher gave us a packet that we could sketch drawings of things we saw or found in the prairie. At the end of the day we got to write a story of our trip there. Everyone had a ton of fun at the prairie.

Hansen students selected for OPUS

Congratulations to Mrs. Dreyer and these kiddos for being selected for OPUS! There were over 1,000 submissions in the state of Iowa and 180 were chosen for the 5th/6th grade Choir. These students will travel to Iowa State University to rehearse and perform on November 17th. Congratulations to all students that tried out!



Fifth Graders Visit State Capitol

Written by: Barbara Bekavac and Monet Buerkle, 5th Grade Students

The 5th grade classes went on a field trip to Des Moines. When we got there we saw the huge sparkling golden dome. The first thing we did when we got inside, we went to the Supreme Court room. It was amazing! We learned that in that room all the cool wood pieces were carved by hand! They felt so smooth. We also learned that everything in the Capitol was painted, there was NO wallpaper in the Capitol. After, we walked to the AMAZING library. It had two spiral staircases and the books were so thick. Also it only contained law books. On the next floor we saw this astonishing painting. It was very big and it was called Westward. It showed how pioneers traveled, and how hard it was for them. We saw Mosaics too. When we walked past them it looked like their eyes and feet were following us. It was creepy! Then some of us went to the tippy tippy top! It was very high and when you looked down it made your stomach churn like butter. There were about 90 steps. Lastly, before we left we got to have a picnic in front of the shining Capitol. It was so beautiful. Definitely now off our bucket list!



Hansen Receives Blue Ribbon Designation

Hansen Elementary has been selected as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2016. The award is based on overall academic excellence, with Hansen being recognized as an Exemplary High Performing School. The Iowa Department of Education nominates up to five schools per year for this prestigious award.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools where students achieve very high learning standards or are making improvements in closing the achievement gap.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools flag gracing a school's building is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.

Our Hansen staff is thrilled that our school has been recognized with this honor. We are committed to continuing to grow and improve our learning environment and teaching strategies so that each and every Hansen student finds success at school.



Here is our school summary via official blue ribbon site:
http://nationalblueribbonsschools.ed.gov/awardwinners/winning/16ia177pu_helen_a_hansen_elementary_school.html

Window on Workshop

Our teachers are continuing to implement the workshop model into their classrooms. Each month we will provide you with a peek into our learning.

One of the ways we helped set students up for success in their reading work for the year was by giving them ownership of our classroom libraries. When stud-

ents have a role in organizing the library, whether by genre, reading level, or other classification, they create a connection that guides their book selection all year long.

Ask your student what they're reading and how their library is organized!



PTA News

The following opportunities for fundraising have been set up by our PTA. Thank you for your work on behalf of our school community!

0.5% of your purchase price on Amazon is donated to Hansen when you use this link to shop: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7086898>

Upcoming Godfather's nights (we receive a % of sales): October 21, November 16

Upcoming Meetings:
 Nov. 9; Jan. 10; Feb. 15; April 11; & May 9
Email: hansenelempta@gmail.com
Website: www.cfschools.org/schools/hansen/pta

Meet Miss Jen

Miss Jen is Hansen's school counselor. She's here to help all students by teaching classroom lessons that address social/emotional learning, providing counseling to students as needed and consulting with parents and staff. She can also help connect you with resources in the community. Contact Miss Jen if you have concerns about your child - whether the problems are big or small. Also, be sure to check out Miss Jen's blog and sign up for email updates if you're interested.

Miss Jen's Blog:

<http://missjenscounselingcorner.blogspot.com/2016/09/who-is-miss-jen.html>



Hansen Elementary

<https://www.facebook.com/Hansen-Elementary-1434534303434485/timeline/>

Receiving Email?

All Hansen families should be receiving a weekly email sent each Friday. If you are not receiving the weekly announcements, please contact the office at 553.2775.

Online Fliers

<http://www.cfschools.org/fliers>



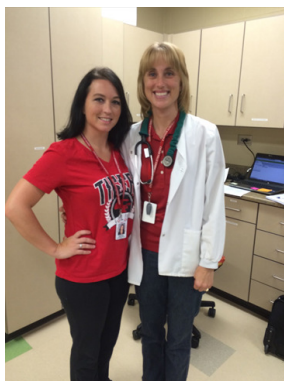
Meet our Nurses

Christina Hovey, Health Assistant / RN

I am a Hansen mom of 5 boys. I have been an RN for 12 years, mostly in Labor & Delivery and some Peds & NICU. I have had an in home daycare for the last 3 years and I jumped at the opportunity to be at school with my boys! For the past three years, I have helped my husband run our plumbing business.

Stacey Hendrickson, RN at Holmes, SD, & Hansen

My name is Stacey Hendrickson and I am on my 21st year of being a Registered Nurse. I have been a school nurse since the Fall of 2013. My husband's name is Mike and I have four children who all attended Hansen Elementary. Emily is 20, Erin is 18, Abby is 16 and Morgan is 11. We have seven cats, two dogs, one guinea pig and a few fish. I love to spend time with my family, my favorite food is ice cream and Halloween is my favorite holiday!



Contact Mrs. Estep

I am happy to talk with you anytime about our school! If you have comments, concerns, or questions please don't hesitate to call, email, or set up an appointment.

319.553.2775

Tara.estep@cfschools.org

