



Senior

CONNECTION

Your communication connection with Bismarck Public Schools!

August 2009

www.bismarckschools.org

What are we working on THIS school year?

You've probably seen pictures in the paper or on our district web site of progress of our two building projects: a new northeast elementary school and a new Career and Technical Center on the BSC campus.

We also set some goals with the School Board at our retreat in July. They are:

1. Facility Use Policy:

We want to make sure we are doing a fair job of charging outside groups who use our school facilities, so we have reviewed our policy and hope to buy some computer software that will help us manage the rental of all of our gyms, auditoriums, fields, etc.

2. In City Busing: A parent asked us to look into free busing for all Bismarck Public School students. We will present a report to the School Board soon, and check into whether Harlow's bus service can supply more private routes at a more attractive rate.

3. 2009-2010 Budget & Federal Stimulus Funding:

We will receive about \$9.7 million in federal stimulus dollars. Our School Board is discussing how to best spend that money, which does have restrictions on it. Some ideas include using federal dollars to free up local funds and buy down the School Construction loan so we can make additional facility improvements this year and next. For example, we need furnishings and equipment for the new Career and Tech Center, we need to make some improvements to the existing Career and Tech Center, which will still be used, and we need a match payment for the state deferred maintenance grant. We will also look at some property tax reduction scenarios.

4. Superintendent's Goals:

Some possible goals for the 2009-2010 school year include:

- * deciding the future grade configuration of our middle schools;

- * organizing a public forum with middle school and senior high students;

- * continuing to focus on student achievement goals;

- * completing salary surveys of employee groups to see if we are still competitive in today's job market; and

- * reviewing our Balanced Scorecard district goals with the School Board.

If you have questions, feel free to call me at 323-4054.

Dr. Paul Johnson

Superintendent of Schools

Quotable Quote:

"A word to the wise ain't necessary; it's the stupid ones who need the advice!"

Bill Cosby

School Days

Aug. 27	First Day of School
Sept. 7	Labor Day-no school
Sept. 28	Teacher Workshop- no school
Oct. 22-23	NDEA conference- no school
Nov. 11	Vet's Day-no school
Nov. 26-27	Thanksgiving- no school
	Dec. 23-Jan.3- Holiday- no school

School naming "contest"

This fall, we will ask members of our community to help us name the new northeast elementary school. If you have a name to suggest, please contact Renae Walker, 323-4091, renae_walker@bismarckschools.org, or mail it to her at 806 North Washington Street, Bismarck, ND 58501.

If you would like to drive out and see the area where the school is being built, the best way to get there is to go east on Century Avenue, past Centennial Road, then turn left onto Roosevelt and drive until you come to the school being constructed at 3800 Nicker-son Ave.

This school will be open next fall in 2010. It will take the pressure off crowded elementary schools such as Rita Murphy and Northridge.

Grandparents Day is Sept. 13

These quotes were taken from papers written by 8 year-olds who answered the question: What is a grandparent?!

Grandparents are a lady and a man who have no little children of their own. They like other people's.

Grandparents don't have to do anything except be there when we come to see them. They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run. It is good if they drive us to the store and have lots of quarters for us.

When they take us for walks, grandparents slow down for things like pretty leaves and caterpillars.

They don't say, "Hurry up."

They wear glasses and funny underwear. They can take their teeth and gums out.

They aren't too fat to tie our shoes.

Grandparents have the answers to questions like, "Why isn't God married?" and "Why do dogs chase cats?"

Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television, because they are the only grown ups who like to spend time with us.

They know we should have snacks before bed and they say prayers with us every time and they kiss us even when we've acted bad.

When they read to us, grandparents don't skip parts and they don't mind if we ask for the same story over again.

My grandmother lives at the airport and when we want her, we just go get her. Then when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport.

A grandfather is a man and a grandmother is a lady!

They tell us why we shouldn't step on cracks.

Activity passes for senior citizens

If you are 62 and older, you can buy a low-priced pass to BPS athletic events at the Activities Office at 806 N. Washington Street. Park in the west lot and walk up the ramp to door #4. You can also buy one at any sporting event. The cost is only \$40.

For a list of events, go to www.bismarckschools.org and click "Activities" in the column on the left.

Our students and teams love it when you come out and support them, so buy a season pass and watch all the action LIVE!