

Nixon News

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I wanted to start this first newsletter with a big thank you to the families, staff, and of course our learners at Nixon. As we have made some significant changes to the way we learn and grow at Nixon, we have had not only flexible thinkers, but we have also had to use many other Habits of Mind when working through our new routines and procedures. Managing our impulses, persisting, thinking and communicating with clarity and precision, and listening with understanding and empathy, to name a few.

It has been my incredible pleasure to begin this work with our Nixon community and I look forward to the months ahead as we continue to innovate learning experiences for our Nixon Bobcats.

Jeni Goebel, Principal
jgoebel@cr.k12.ia.us

COUNSELING UPDATE

Staff at Nixon Elementary began introducing Habits of Mind to learners last year. We will again be teaching Habits of Mind and we want to make sure parents and guardians are aware of what these are and what they mean. In each newsletter, I will introduce a Habit of Mind and describe it. Feel free to practice these at home and encourage your children, too!

What is Habits of Mind?

Habits of Mind is knowing how to behave when you DON'T know the answer. It means thinking critically when confronted with problems, the answers to which are not immediately known: dilemmas, conflict and uncertainties.

Our focus is on performance under challenging conditions that demand reasoning, insightfulness, perseverance, creativity, and craftsmanship. The critical attribute is not only having information, but also knowing how to act on it. Employing Habits of Mind requires drawing forth conclusions that produce powerful results. They are a composite of many skills, knowledge and attitudes.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **9/18: Tornado Drill**
- **9/27: PTA Dance-a-Thon**
- **9/28: Birthday Friday & Dress Up Day (Team Spirit!)**
- **9/28: Lockdown Drill**
- **10/8 & 10/9: NO SCHOOL**
- **10/11 Grandparent's Breakfast**

FAMILY FEEDBACK SURVEY

We are always looking for ways to improve how we communicate with families. Please take a few moments to take this survey and





KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. Boyles, Mrs. Machart, and Mrs. Whitlow welcome you to kindergarten!

Kindergarten is a special year that is filled with lots of learning and fun. Our day is full of experiences that develop math, reading, writing, science, and social skills. Our goal is to create a joyful learning environment, where learners are highly engaged and excited about learning. Because we

want to build the foundation for a successful school year, we spend the first weeks of school forming relationships, introducing rules and procedures, and practicing our daily routines.

We are so excited for this school year and all the new adventures we will share with our learners!

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TATUM’S TOOLS

Over the past several years, Nixon Elementary has embraced blended learning. Blended learning is a unique opportunity for learners to collaborate, engage in small groups, work on mini-projects, and utilize technology for learning.

At Nixon, learners engage in blended learning for different subject areas including reading and math. Blended learning has helped learners receive learning personalized to their individual needs. With this process, we are able to provide digital content, daily practice and extension, and frequent check-ins for learners. In addition, each learner receives regular small-group instruction.

This year, Nixon will also begin personalizing learning for our learners. Personalized learning will continue to incorporate our blended learning habits we have created and expand to include more self-pacing and self-monitoring of learning.

1ST GRADE

Welcome to first grade!

Mrs. Aarhus and Mrs. Schoenbeck are looking forward to a wonderful school year with you. We began the year learning classroom routines and participating in several community building activities to help get to know other classmates and learn everyone’s names.

We also spent time looking at routines students will follow during reading workshop. There has also been a short period of review of letters and sounds that your child learned in kindergarten.

For math, we will begin setting up routines for math center rotations. To help your child transition from kindergarten to first grade, it would help if you could review addition sentences up to five.

Your child has a take home folder that goes home with them each day. Please check this daily to be aware of events that are happening in the classroom and information regarding when homework will start.

We are so excited for another wonderful year in first grade! Please feel free to call or email with any questions.

Mrs. Aarhus: 558-3197 or amaarhus@cr.k12.ia.us

Mrs. Schoenbeck: 558-1664 or aschoenbeck@cr.k12.ia.us



Welcome Back Bobcats! Sign courtesy of Sign Dreamers Cedar Rapids

A WORD FROM TEAMS GREEN & GOLD

Welcome back! We are excited to have you. This year we will be divided into two teams: Team Green & Team Gold.

Within each team we will be divided into pods of Rookies, Cadets, Apprentices, and Scholars. They will be working on learning reading and math in a personalized way.

Personalized learning is an instructional approach to teaching and learning. It allows learners to engage in activities, instruction, and learning that is targeted and specific to their needs. It allows learning to be move along by modifying instruction to an individuals' needs and skills as they master standards and content.

At Nixon, learners will progress at their own pace through math standards and be challenged and stretched in reading. They will also rotate through a rotation of social studies, technology, science, and STEAM lab over a 2-week cycle. The courses will be working together to fulfill the standards of each pod.

We will also continue to work on the 16 Habits of Mind during our school day. This will give learners skills to become 21st century learners and develop strategies for learning success.

We look forward to our continued work with your children this year and are excited to share more about our new and innovative approach to learning.

LEARNER CELEBRATIONS

We have had the opportunity to celebrate our learners over the course of several weeks now over the intercom during morning announcements and in Morning Meetings.

In addition to our daily and weekly celebrations, each month we will also host a celebration assembly honoring learners who go above and beyond to make our learning community a positive place to come to every day.

As facilitators and other staff nominate learners for these awards, we will contact families and invite them to the assembly.

At these assemblies we will recognize and celebrate the amazing accomplishments of our Nixon Bobcats. These assemblies are open to parents, siblings, grandparents, and extended relatives who might like to come help celebrate.

We look forward to another great year full of celebrations and successes!

Nixon Elementary PTA Membership Drive

Calling all Moms, Dads, Grandparents and community members!!!!

The Nixon PTA Sponsors programs, presentations and awards for students and is the link between parents and Nixon Elementary School. We are fully funded by fundraisers and PTA memberships. Your \$5.00 membership dues will help to support Nixon Elementary PTA.

Common Questions:

Q: Is a membership for each family?

A: No, membership is for **each** person.

Q: I am not able to volunteer, why should I join?

A: Your \$5 membership dues help to support various programs, presentations & awards, have the opportunity to vote at PTA meetings, and are showing your child that you are involved in their education.

Q: How do I sign up?

A: Please email the address below or submit the enrollment form.

nixonptaevents@gmail.com

Green Team

The Green Team is an interactive educational program that empowers staff and students to help the environment through waste reduction, recycling, composting, energy conservation and pollution prevention.

Throughout the school year staff and students will engage in a variety of activities to promote environmentally friendly practices. From turning off the light switch to recycling paper, we will work to reduce the impact our school has on the environment.

The Green Team will also strive to educate our Nixon family of sustainable practices to employ at home.

TIER 1

Have you heard your child say they got a ticket at school and wondered what they meant?

Part of the Tier 1 (also known as PBIS) procedures at Nixon are to give students tickets when they are caught demonstrating the common-area expectations by any staff member in the building. We will collect the tickets each month to work towards a school-wide celebration!

Student of the Month celebrations will also continue this year! We

are excited to celebrate all the great things we see every day with you!

If your student is nominated, a staff member will contact you to let you know the details of the celebration, so you can join us for the assembly and celebration pro-



“We look forward to working with you and creating a collaborative village to support all of our kids!”

FAMILY & COMMUNITY COR-

Our Nixon Back-to-School Bash was a huge success. We thank everyone who came out for some ice cream and family time. A big thanks goes to our PTA and River of Life Church for donating so many useful items to get our families set up and ready for back to school. Another thanks goes to Capri College for donating free coupons for our students to get a haircut.

We are super excited for this year and look forward to the relationship between school, families, and our community. If you yourself or anyone you know works in the community and would be willing to donate time, we would love to work with them. Some ideas might be volunteering at school, having lunch buddies, working with students on their passion (example an engineer from Rockwell to work with a student or 2 who loves to tinker with things), or a job that offers presentations to school (either during or after school). We look forward to working with you and

