

**ARLINGTON
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

***WINTER BREAK**
December 25-
January 3, 2018

***MUSIC
BOOSTER'S SOUP
SUPPER**
Monday, Febr. 12,
5:30-8:00 p.m.

***KINDERGARTEN
ROUNDUP
FEBRUARY 16,
2018. MARK YOUR
CALENDARS.**

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:**

Music Soup Supper Details	2
Option Enroll. Applications	2
Veterans Day Program	3
Tech Talk	3
Infant/Toddler Screening	3
5th Graders Connect	4
Stakeholder Survey	5



EAGLE CONNECTIONS

WWW.APSEAGLES.ORG

NOVEMBER 2017

News from the Superintendent

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, it is an appropriate time to reflect on what makes us thankful. In the education business, we have an abundance of items that can fall into this category on a daily basis. From a broad based perspective, some of the items that would make my list are: finalization of HVAC project, final stages of Safe Routes project, committed board of education, high quality and dedicated staff members, involved and supportive parents/guardians, respectful and committed students, and supportive taxpayers and patrons. Because of the support of our stakeholders, this fall the elementary students were able to raise around \$18,000 toward playground improvements, and the FBLA realized a contribution of nearly 4,000 cans to the Washington County Food Bank. It has been a productive first quarter, and second quarter promises to be just as grand.

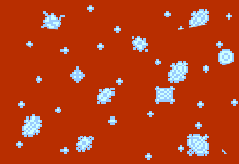
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENT

The role of the school board is to look out for students. All of their decisions are focused on the education of our children. When making decisions about school programs and initiatives, they want to incorporate the views of the community. In the fall of 2014, the school board held two community engagement meetings that garnered the involvement of 64 stakeholders. The process resulted in obtaining valuable feedback that enabled the board to establish goals and objectives designed to move the district forward in a manner that reflects the views of the community. Three years later, the board of education is coming to the stakeholders again and asking them to participate in further discussion that will help us to reflect and refine our community's vision for the future of our school and students.

We invite patrons of the district to attend a meeting on Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the elementary multipurpose gym to join in this discussion and growth opportunity. You can access the building through the entrances on either side of the new gym. Child care will be provided on site by FBLA students. Participants are asked to RSVP for childcare by calling (402) 478-4173. The board is distributing a survey as a tool to collect information that will assist them to productively shape the content for this community discussion. The survey will be delivered using three different mediums. This month's newsletter includes a hard copy survey which can be completed and returned to the school by mail or dropped off at one of the offices. The survey can also be accessed from the district website (www.apseagles.org) and it will be mailed to parents (guardians) of current students. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit a survey even if they cannot attend the meeting. We want to thank you in advance for taking the time to submit a survey and for participating in the engagement event.

WINTER
BREAK

December 25-
January 3, 2018



APS MUSIC
BOOSTERS' SOUP
SUPPER-MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 12, 2018
5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Musical talents will include the elementary, middle, and high school bands, middle and high school choirs, and show choir.

Prices for 7th grade and up \$7.00; Children 6th grade and under \$4.00; Senior Citizens \$5.00. There will be raffles and silent auction.

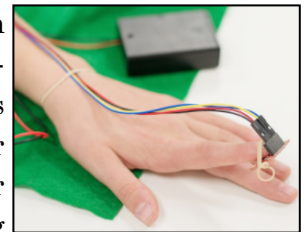


OPTION ENROLLMENT FOR 2018-2019

A reminder that option enrollment applications for the 2018-2019 school year can now be submitted. March 15, 2018 is the deadline for filing applications unless a waiver of dates is granted. Parents of students wishing to option into or out of the Arlington School District for the upcoming academic year should secure information and applications from the superintendent's office by calling 478-4173. The application is also available on our website under 'Quick Links.' Arlington Public Schools will consider option enrollment applications until the day before school starts. Current option enrollment students do not need to reapply.

INCREDIBLE WEARABLES

On October 4, Arlington 7th graders participated in "Incredible Wearables Day" which was held in conjunction with National Youth Science Day. Students designed and created a working heart rate monitor and step counter. The UNL extension office in Blair helped lead the activity that supports STEM learning for our students.



ARLINGTON EAGLES' BANK IN SCHOOL

The Arlington Bank in School was first opened during the 2016-17 school year through a partnership between Two Rivers Bank and Arlington FBLA. This project allows students in grades K-6 to deposit money into their own savings accounts on Friday mornings during the school year. With the help of our bank tellers from FBLA and bank representatives from Two Rivers Bank, the program has had 182 participants deposit about \$12,000 since the bank first opened. The project provides on-the-job training for the high school tellers and promotes life-long saving habits for elementary students.



ELEMENTARY FUN RUN BIG SUCCESS

Arlington Elementary has been hard at work on a few projects. The south playground has had some updating with the PTO purchase of two basketball hoops and a new court. We recently completed our first ever 'Fun Run' fundraiser in which students raised around \$18,000 dollars for our playground refurbishment. The 'Fun Run' was a day that was filled with prizes, recognition, games, and several laps around the high school gymnasium. We even danced to a few songs in the gym and watched Mrs. Morgan dye her hair pink. The event was a huge success and we thank everyone who participated.

VETERANS DAY



Arlington Public Schools would like to invite the community to our annual Veterans Day Ceremony. The ceremony will be held on Friday, November 10 at 9:00 a.m. in the new high school gym. We will honor the dedicated servicemen and servicewomen who have sacrificed so much for our great country. Please join us.

TECH TALK—EXPLORING THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY AT ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Several Arlington Elementary School instructors are using a parent communication tool this year called ClassDojo. The online program connects teachers, students, and parents with class event information, announcements, and student behavior and assignment work in the classroom.

Teachers can reward students for hard work or good behavior by giving them “points” on the ClassDojo program. Likewise, they can deduct points for late or incomplete assignments or misbehavior. Parents can monitor their student’s profile on a computer, tablet, or phone and get instant feedback during the day. Teachers are able to add a post to the student page so the parent knows exactly what he/she did to earn his or her points or what specific assignment may be late.

Third grade teacher Kristy Rollins has used ClassDojo at Arlington and in her previous teaching positions. She says, “I love using ClassDojo! Students are awarded positive points for good behavior, random acts of kindness, staying on task, helping a friend, getting good grades, etc. On the flip side, they are also given negative points for late assignments, not staying on task, poor sportsmanship, poor choices at lunch and recess, etc.”

Arlington specialist teachers also can award or deduct points for students. Teachers use ClassDojo as their main form of communication with parents. Any daily reminders (Spirit Day is tomorrow or Red Ribbon Week schedule) are sent through ClassDojo to all parents. They can add photos of special projects/days/field trips to their class site. Captions can be added so parents can see their children in action.

Adds Rollins, “There is a private message feature I use to talk to specific parents. When they respond, it is a private conversation between the two of us. I use this feature to talk about behavior, late assignments, or even what they signed up to do for our class party. From what I've heard from parents, they love getting instant feedback on their child. They're able to have conversations at night as to what happened throughout the day.”

The primary goal for Arlington Elementary School in using ClassDojo is to encourage positive student behaviors and to provide a means for teachers and parents to communicate frequently and effectively about student development. Several teachers have shown an interest in implementing ClassDojo so more classrooms may be using the product soon.

ARLINGTON INFANT/TODDLER SCREENING - IS SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2018 - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

5TH GRADERS CONNECT THROUGH LETTER WRITING

Arlington 5th graders have been spending a little time “old school.” In a generation of gadgets and high-tech devices, students have been working on writing good, old-fashioned letters by hand. The partnership started 10 years ago between the 5th grade classes at Logan View in Hooper and the 5th graders in Arlington.

Students work on knowing the parts of a friendly letter, how to share ideas, and practice the writing process from brainstorming to editing and writing final drafts. Exchanges happen about once a month, ending in a day spent with their pals at the end of the year. This year Arlington will host the day, usually occurring in May.

SCHOOL CLOSING

In the event of severe weather or hazardous driving conditions, information pertaining to the closing of the school will be broadcast by **Blackboard Connect 5 (telephone message)** and the following stations:

WOW Omaha	590 AM/94.1 FM	KMTV – Channel 3	WOWT – Channel 6
KFAB Omaha	1110 AM	KETV – Channel 7	KOLNTV- Channel 10/11
KHUB Fremont	1340 AM		

Should a storm develop during the school day, the same radio, TV stations, and Blackboard Connect 5 will be used to advise parents that school will be closing and that buses will be departing early. The safety of the children comes first. It is our intent to deliver the most timely and accurate information to parents in the quickest way possible. If your phone number changes during the school year, please be sure to contact your child’s school as soon as possible. If you have questions related to school closing, please contact the building principals or the superintendent.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION: Students, parents, employees, volunteers, school patrons, applicants for student admission or employment, sources of referral of applicants for admission and employment, professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the Arlington Public Schools, and all others who interact with Arlington Public Schools are hereby notified that the Arlington Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, religion, or disability in the admission, access to its facilities or programs, treatment, or employment in its programs or activities. Any person having inquiries concerning this district’s compliance with anti-discrimination laws or policies or other programs should contact or notify the following person(s) who is designated as the coordinator for such laws, policies, or programs. The contact information for the coordinator is: Secondary Principal, Arlington Public Schools, 705 N 9th, PO Box 580, Arlington, NE 68002 (402) 478-4173.

STAKEHOLDER SURVEY



A vital role of the Board of Education is to gather community direction on issues related to students, their learning environment, and academic learning and achievement. For this reason, the Board of Education of Arlington Public Schools is hosting their second Community Engagement event. **The meeting will be held on Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the elementary multipurpose gymnasium. All stakeholders of the district are invited to attend.** The feedback obtained allows the board to formulate operational and instructional goals that reflect the community's values. In addition, it also provides the board with an opportunity to share how feedback from the previous community engagement meetings has shaped our current reality.

The information from this survey will be used to help establish the format and direction of the December 7, 2017 engagement event and as a source of feedback. Hard copy survey responses can be dropped off at either school office or mailed to Arlington Public Schools, P.O. Box 580, Arlington NE. This same survey is available in digital format on the school website (www.apseagles.org) and will be emailed out to parents/guardians. Please complete/return the survey by Monday, November 27, 2017.

1. Identify the points of pride and/or strengths of the school district.
2. Identify the challenges that may impact the district in the next three to five years.
3. As a district patron, what are your expectations and priorities for the school district?
4. What are options for expanded programs or course offerings that the board of education should consider? Are there programs or course offerings that the board should consider eliminating?
5. Upkeep of facilities, grounds, and transportation require an on-going commitment of resources. Are there specific needs in this area that you would encourage the board to prioritize?
6. What forms of communications do you feel are most effective in keeping patrons informed and/or involved (i.e., district newsletter, daily announcements, email, school website, *Arlington Citizen*)?
7. Arlington Public Schools currently shares softball facilities, baseball facilities, and before/after school care program with outside agencies (Arlington Youth Sports, Village of Arlington, Washington County Agricultural Society, Fremont YMCA). Are there other shared endeavors that you would encourage the board to consider?