

# Community Update

February 13, 2015

## Calendar

We've had a few questions regarding make-up days and our previously scheduled 2-hour delays for professional development purposes. To date we have used 7 calamity days. This has triggered our make-up plan which means that we will have school on Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> and Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. If we miss another day we will have school on Tuesday, March 31. Beyond that, we will utilize Blizzard Bags for the next 3 missed days. The reason we have chosen to make-up days in person as opposed to Blizzard Bags for the first 3 are because we believe that classroom instruction provides more potential benefits and rigor. Conversely, we realize that the blizzard bags can serve a purpose and are just as beneficial, if not more so, than adding days on at the end of the school year when students' minds are prone to long for summer vacation! If additional days are needed (let's hope not!) then those days would be made up in school at the end of the school year.

We had previously scheduled 2-hour delays on January 8 and March 5 for purposes of professional development. Due to all the delays and cancellations we've faced these have been rescheduled for April 6 and May 7 to ensure our staff has the training and resources necessary to provide the best possible education for our students.

## HS Principal Committee

Just a quick update to the committee's work. We received 33 applications for the HS principal position! A good portion of them included excellent qualifications and made the committees' job of selecting interview candidates very challenging (a good problem to have!). We hope to complete the process in the next few weeks and make the best possible decision for the students, staff, and community. Thank you to all of the committee members who have already dedicated many hours to ensuring we accomplish that task!

## HB 64 (Biennial Budget Bill)

The Governor's budget bill was officially released earlier this week. In it there are a number of items which significantly affect education. Included in those items are a proposed 2.6% reduction to our state aid funding in FY16 and again in FY17. Fortunately, our strong fiscal health will give us the stability to withstand these proposed cuts. It is important, however, to realize that these cuts, regardless of their impact upon our own district, do not address the underlying issue with the tax burden and the school funding formula. While his budget is only a proposal, and is quite likely to change, it is important to bring it to your attention for several reasons. Know that we will continue to advocate for our school and schools like ours at the state level, but it is imperative that constituents also communicate with legislators so they know how they are affected by legislation. I will not purport to know how each of our community members feel about school funding or even the numerous changes to education which are included in HB 64. I would only ask that you read the material and if you feel strongly in support of or opposed to any of the measures please let us know and, more importantly, let your representatives know. Whether you agree, disagree, or fall somewhere in between on any of these continued changes to education it is inarguable that schools across the state are facing significant change that affects our staff, students, and community. As we are able to further analyze the bill and hear about possible changes we will keep you updated.

## Congrats!

Congratulations to Allie Rutherford for representing Cory-Rawson well at the county spelling bee. While Allie did splendidly, she narrowly missed the cut to move onto the next level. Nonetheless, kudos to her for her performance!

### **All-County Band and Choir**

Kudos to the following students who will be representing CR in the All-County Band and Choir. We have more students that auditioned and made it than any other county school!

#### **Band**

Kara Galvan  
Emily Phillips  
Cassie Thomas  
Kaitlyn Sidle  
Brittane Blunk  
Rayanne Nye  
Carissa Kussmaul  
Desiree Crist  
TJ Washer

#### **Band**

Ethan Korpics  
Brittany Boehm  
Zach Roebke  
Triston Stanfield  
Hunter Garmatter  
Mycala Kloeppel  
David Spears  
Brody Hickle  
Daniel White

#### **Choir**

Jamey Rettig  
Rachel Breitigam  
Sierra Peterson  
Bekah White  
Anna Curth  
Whitney Rossman  
Blake Abell

### **Youth Basketball**

If you were not in attendance at the girls' or boys' varsity basketball games last week you missed quite the event at halftime! The elementary girls' and boys' squads lit up the court with their fast-paced and action-packed games! Their enthusiasm and joy, not to mention their focus, bodes well for the future of our basketball programs! Great job kids (and a huge thanks to the coaches who have worked with these students to help them learn the game)!

#### **Good luck!**

Good luck to the boys' basketball team as they travel to North Baltimore tonight! Good luck, also, to the wrestling teams as they travel to Van Buren for the BVC tournament this weekend. Finally, best wishes to the girls' basketball team who is at home for parents' night on Saturday as they take on Lakota...and if you didn't see the youngsters play at half time last week, come on out as they'll be taking the court again!

Have a great weekend and GO HORNETS!