



Corning Community Schools Newsletter

December, 2011

Issue 2

The Principal's Corner Kent Jorgensen Secondary School Principal

The first semester is winding down and will end on December 21, 2011. The 21st also marks the beginning of our Holiday Break with second semester classes starting on Tuesday, January 4, 2012. Our teachers have until January 3 to record their grades therefore, first semester report cards will not be mailed until the first week in January.

The renovation project is nearing completion and our Jr. High teachers will be moving to the third floor of the high school building over the Holiday break. Hopefully, all phone lines will be connected by then to help with the communication problem we have had during the first semester. For that, we do apologize and I thank you for your patience!

Ms. Reinhardt, our guidance counselor, will be starting second semester schedule changes very soon. Students with schedule conflicts need to meet with Ms. Reinhardt to get these taken care of before the second semester starts. Keep in mind that our schedule is not very flexible therefore it may be difficult get into some classes.

The Fall Play under the direction of Mr. Pete Nett was outstanding! With our busy schedule at the conclusion of the first quarter along with several other conflicts (mainly no auditorium), Mr. Nett and his students were able to put on a great production of "Revenge of the Space Pandas".

Ms. Docker and her vocal students completed their third annual "Pops" concert. The program was highlighted with performances by our students and a singing group from Southwestern Community College. Our chorus along with the SWCC performers put on a great show for the parents and community. Congratulations to both Ms. Docker and Mr. Nett.

We have had a great first semester at CHS and I would like to commend our teachers for all of their hard work. Teaching is a demanding profession and many times goes without notice. If you get a chance, please take the time to thank your child's teachers and as always, you are more than welcome to visit our school.

As we approach the end of another year, I would like to wish you and your families a very joyous Holiday Season and a wonderful New Year. Happy Holidays!

Learning Lab News
Mrs. Bass

It is hard to believe it is already Christmas time! This year in the Learning Lab we are really focusing on reading. The students are continually trying to improve their reading skills and are learning to enjoy reading. The students have been working hard improving their academic skills and have been learning a range of skills from math to chemistry and everything in between. They have also been working hard at improving their study skills and habits along with reading comprehension.

At the Junior High level we are really working on independence and organization. The students are doing a great job transitioning from the Elementary to the Junior High.

We are looking forward to the Spring semester and all of the new classes that the students will be taking! Have a wonderful holiday season! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

Art News..
Ms. Winter

Art classes are in various design projects with the focus on reflective design working with kaleidoscope name designs and out of the box projects. In drawing we are working in the chalk medium. Many of the students projects are displayed on the bulletin boards outside the Art room in the elementary as we are still having class there. Hopefully we will be working out of our new high school room soon!

Math & Basketball News
Mr. Fisher

As we get ready to close-out the first semester and head into Winter Break, I want to take this chance to wish everyone a Happy Holidays! All of the high school math students have been working extremely hard this year. I've been pleased to have one of my hardest working and highest achieving group of geometry students in quite some time. They've been currently working hard on many properties of different types of triangles and real world applications of these properties. Algebra I have been just a great bunch of students to work with this year. While they have struggled at times, their attitudes have been amazing and they are always working hard to understand everything I throw at them.

Currently they have been finishing up work on relations, functions, and how these apply to real-world situations. And both my Consumer Math and Bridges Math classes have been very focused as they head into the break, working on numerous concepts.

Winter Break also comes to us as we complete the first set of basketball games. This year has been a lot of fun so far. We have a great core group of seniors that bring a lot of experience to the court. But we also have some great younger guys that have been working extremely hard. While we are still searching for a little consistency from night to night, we are showing signs of improvement every time we take the court and I'm confident that as January and February roll around, we will become a very good basketball team and be tough to beat. Thank you for all of

you that have come out and support us early this season, we appreciate everything you do.

Guidance Information
Ms. Reinhardt

Sophomores interested in taking the PLAN, please stop by Miss. Reinhardt's office to sign-up and get a practice guide. The PLAN will be taken on Thursday, January 19th. It will be from 8:30-12:00. The cost is \$11.25 per student. You must pay prior to taking the test. You must also complete an assignment make-up slip and show it to Mrs. Boswell. The deadline to sign-up, pay and have your make-up slip complete is Wednesday, January 18th.

ACT Test

Date

	Registration Deadline
February 11, 2012	January 13, 2012
April 14, 2012	March 9, 2012
June 9, 2012	May 4, 2012

If you are interested in taking the ACT, please stop by the Guidance Office for a registration packet and a practice guide.

Agricultural Education
Mr. Sonntag

The first semester classes have ended and students were given the opportunity to review a wide variety of topics and look into the possibilities available in the agricultural career field.

8th Exploratory – We finished our units reviewing a variety of topics related to my high school AgEd classes. We covered agricultural careers, Iowa agriculture, farm safety and horticulture. We also discussed livestock selection and judging, agricultural technology, and pet care in our exploratory class.

Ag I – Students in this segment of the class are studying wildlife, habitats, and the coexistence of wildlife and crop production systems in Iowa. We have also covered water and soil conservation, techniques in improving our environment, and the viability of agriculture in the world. We started out the year with the first quarter taking a look at FFA history and all the opportunities available to its members.

Natural Resources – This class has touched on a variety of environmental topics this semester. Students reviewed the history of natural resource conservation, the importance of our resources, and the value of managing our resources. We studied wetlands, wildlife, freshwater fisheries management, tree identification and measurement, and laws protecting our resources.

Horticulture – This class has studied and worked on landscaping projects during a segment of the first semester. We looked at the parts and functions of plants, environmental

factors affecting plant production, and plant identification tips. Students also had the opportunity to take part in some landscaping and landscape maintenance projects around the school campus.

Ag Business – In this class the students and I discuss a lot of situations affecting agriculture and the business management skills needed to thrive in today's agricultural businesses. We also created a budget for the year, developed a resume and cover letter, and reviewed important employability skills. These students are presented lots of real world situations and data and asked to respond to the situation which helps students develop critical thinking skills.

Ag Mechanics – The first five weeks students learned about the parts of a small engine and their functions. We then transitioned in to the shop where students completed an engine teardown and part identification project. Then they reassembled the engine correctly before moving in to the maintenance and overhaul of an engine. Students had the opportunity to assemble a new grain auger as a class project this semester along with repairing engines and winterizing some small engines.

Soils/Plant Science – In this class we studied how producers raise crops, develop and maintain appropriate conservation plans, maximize crop production efficiencies, and identify crops and their potential uses. Students also learn about soil types and productivity levels for various soils and learn to use and link information in a plat book and a soil survey book.

Again thanks for supporting the Corning FFA and our various activities during the year. One FFA project we will start soon is building feed bunks as an FFA fundraiser. This year I am also serving as the SW District FFA Advisor and we have hosted several district FFA events already this year and will host district contests here on March 3rd.

Steve Sonntag
AgEd Instructor/FFA Advisor

Vocal Music JK-12
Ms. Docker

Greetings from the Vocal Music Department of the Corning Community Schools! Here's what has been going on in music!

JK-2 students had their Winter Concert on Thursday, December 8th, 2011. They sang four songs as a group, with the JK and Primary grades getting two songs each to sing by themselves. A highlight of this concert was their performance of "I Hear Those Jingle Bells," which featured both groups with different parts at the same time. I was proud of their concert etiquette skills and thank the parents for their help in reinforcing those skills at home.

On December 5th, 2011, the 3rd-6th grade students performed their Winter Concert entitled "North Pole Musical." The 3rd-6th graders have been hard at work learning note values, dynamic words, repeat signs, and many more music skills. This is the first time that the 3rd-6th grade students have learned their show by using the sheet music instead of my homemade lyric sheets. They also did

a fantastic job with their Veteran's Day performance. Despite a few technical glitches with the CD player, the students kept their composure, kept their attention on me, and in the end gave a performance that was saluted by the veterans in attendance. Parents, congratulate your 3rd-6th grade students for a job well done in music so far this year!

The Corning Junior High 7th and 8th grade choir is also having a good year. Their concert was on November 22nd, 2011. This group also had technical glitch with their concert and decided as a group to finish their concert *a capella* (with no accompaniment). They did a great job- I was so pleased with their positive attitude! We are working hard at learning the harmony parts and sticking to them when we are singing all together as a group. We are now preparing for contest! The performance is on February 21st, 2011 at the Iowa Choral Director's Association Middle School Large Group and Solo Contest in CAM. The students will perform four pieces for a judge who will clinic the group after the performance. Parents, if your Junior High Chorus student is interested in taking a solo to this contest, have them come see me after break.

Finally, the Corning High School Concert Choir completed the last of two performances on Thursday, December 15 with their Winter Concert. The Choir sang three pieces that featured several soloists and small groups. In November, we held our third annual Pops Concerts with special guests SWCC's Harmonic Convergence. The concert was a 70's and 80's theme and everyone had a

great time listening to the vocal jazz sounds of Harmonic Convergence. The Concert Choir will jump right in to Large Group preparations when we return from break. Also, in January, auditions for the 2012 Spring Musical "All Shook Up" will take place. Students, watch the announcements for audition times!

As you can see, there's a lot going on in the Vocal Music Department, and that's only the first semester! The second semester looks to be just as busy, but with these kids, I'm confident that they will meet every challenge with a positive attitude and a great work ethic. Thank you for your continued support of music education in our schools. Happy Holidays from our music "family" to yours!

Musically,
Mindy Docker
JK-12 Vocal Music

Middle School Mathematics
Mrs. Krauth

Seventh grade math has been working hard all year on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. The students enjoyed dividing words into smaller words based on the fraction that they had to work with. Fractions are not their favorite thing to do so this activity added a little spice into the fraction world.

Eighth grade math has been a world full of variable and equations. A new concept to them was the Pythagorean Theorem which they now like. It is used in the everyday world when building a ramp and the students are

anxiously waiting for their chance to build miniature ramps. With this ramp and the Pythagorean Theorem, the students also learned a new skill, calculating slope or steepness of a line or ramp. This was their first time getting to use a calculator. Both grades are rapidly approaching the section on Geometry. Finding perimeter, area, volume, and surface area of objects will occupy the students math time in the near future. Along with this section, the eighth grade students will make a model of a house, calculate all the dimensions, and present it to the class. The seventh graders will pair up and plan and design a small playground. Hopefully, this will show the students in both grades the importance of knowing how to calculate perimeter, area, volume, and surface area in later life.

Corning School District Mission Statement

The mission of the Corning Community School is to provide each student with Educational skills and knowledge necessary to become a lifelong learner and productive member of society.

It is the policy of the Corning Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, creed, age or marital status in its educational programs or employment practices. If you have question or grievances related to this policy please contact:

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