



MARCH 2009

Midkota Messenger

Home of the Mustangs!

Inside this issue:

• Student of the Month • Heart Association • Hoops for Heart	2
• State Closeup • 5/6 Field Trip	3
• Get To know your staff! • March 5 & 6 • Garbage	4

Superintendent's Column

By Kerwin

I was really glad when January was over and will be glad when February is over. I think everyone will be ready for spring this year. This winter is getting long. We have used up our storm days and we are now using our vacation days. By law every hour missed must be made up. We are currently at the point that both days in March that were scheduled to be off will be used for make-up days. We cannot have school on Good Friday but we can on Easter Monday. That day may still have to be used. After that point we can ask the Governor to forgive days.

The legislature has reached what is known as crossover day. That is when all bills that originated in the House or Senate have to be voted on. The bills that pass

are then sent to the other chamber for consideration. This is the half way point of the session.

One bill that is noteworthy to mention is HB 1400. This is the school finance bill. It does not do much for schools like us. I explained this in the last Messenger. However it passed the House and will have little trouble passing the Senate. There are many things included in the bill besides money. A few of them are an additional day will be added to the school year, a professional development plan must be submitted to DPI for approval and a Merit Scholarship program has been added for certain students. Also the number of credits required for graduation will be changed. There are many other things included in this bill and it will

have to be explained to parents and students when it is finally passed and signed by the Governor.

There will be tax relief passed by this session. I believe Property Tax will be reduced by 75 mills for school districts. The state will make up the difference. Also it appears there may be a reduction in Income Tax.

Another bill of interest is the date for age deadlines for starting school. The bill that passed the House changes the date from September 1 to July 1. This will affect some students starting Kindergarten next year.

As I write this column basketball is winding down and spring activities will soon begin. Music contests, baseball, etc. Before long school will be over.

Have a great month!



THE 2007-08 ANNUALS ARE IN!!

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR ANNUALS IN EITHER THE BINFORD OR GLENFIELD OFFICE.

THEY ARE \$30 EACH!

SAKARA TOPP STUDENT OF THE MONTH



“The Future Leader of the Month” award for January was presented to Sakara Topp, daughter of Tammy and Lee Topp, from Grace City, North Dakota. This award is sponsored by Sheyenne Financial and a \$50 dollar savings bond is given to the recipient who is chosen by the high school teaching staff.

According to Mr. Black, “This award is often given to a student that leads by example. Sakara always has her work done on time, she asks questions, and gets help if it is ever needed. She understands responsibility and volunteers to help others. According to the staff, Sakara, an eighth-grader, has great potential to be a very successful student at MHS”.

Sakara’s favorite pastime activities include: playing basketball and volleyball, snowmobiling, reading when it’s too cold to go outside, hanging out with friends, and being out at the lake.

Sakara concludes, “Midkota is a great school. I love how everyone knows everyone and how you can talk to everybody and not feel uncomfortable. You can always get the help you need when you need it and somebody is always there for you no matter what.”

HEART ASSOCIATION

The fifth and sixth grade students wish to thank those that give money to the Heart Association when they asked you for a donation. The twelve students raised \$878 dollars among them. Depending upon the amount a student brought in they earned water bottles, zeebees, orbit balls, T-shirts and basketballs. Again thank you, for your support.

-By Larry Tag

HOOPS FOR HEART

The fifth and sixth grade have completed their activities in PE in regard to the collection of money for the Heart Association.

They began by working at twelve different stations that dealt with developing skills needed in basketball. Each student was timed for one minute at each station. This was done during two different PE class periods.

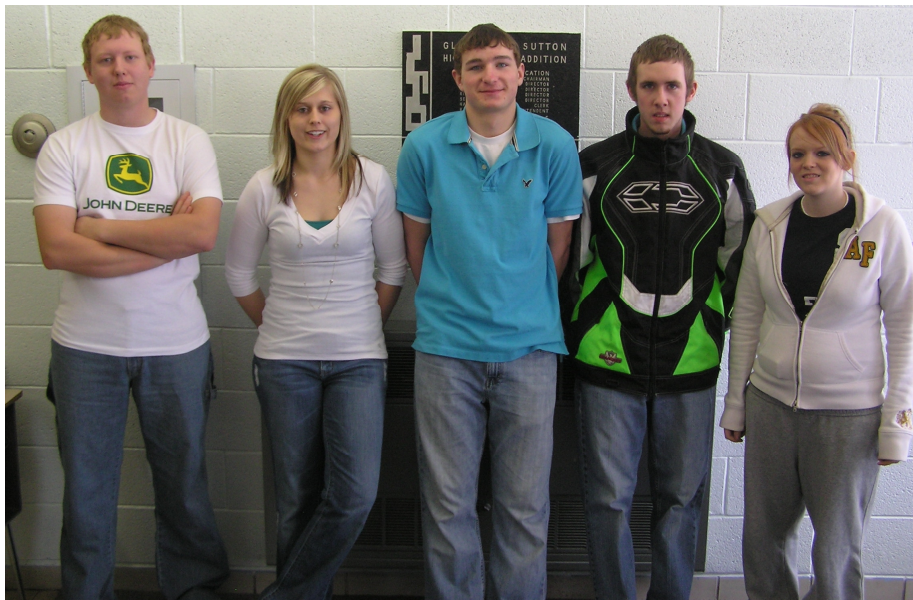
Other activities were free throws, side to side shooting, and a shoot around. These also were timed and shots taken and made were recorded. For the girls, Jessica Iverson was first in the shoot around and side to side shooting, while Brooke Ronningen placed first in the free throw. The winner in the boys area were Brandt Ronningen for shoot around and side to side shooting. Riley Ehlers won the free throw activity.

The winners from the girls and boys then competed. Brooke Ronningen took the free throw contest and Brandt Ronningen took the shoot around and the side to side shooting contest.

A total of 650 shots were taken which works out to around \$1.35 for each shot.

-By Larry Tag

STUDENTS ATTEND STATE CLOSEUP



Five seniors, Amber Briss, Zac Cyrus, Blake Leadens, Jamie Hoyt and Josh Hegvik attended the State Closeup on February 8-10 in Bismarck. The focus this year was on the Legislative Branch of government. Our Legislature is in session every two years and this year is one of them! The students had an opportunity to listen in on committee hearings and watch the floor action of both houses of congress. They also were involved in a mock committee hearing, that culminated the 3 day event. This is a great experience for the students, having an opportunity to see and be involved first hand in our legislative process here in North Dakota. I would like to thank our administration and school

board for allowing the students to attend this very important event.

- Rick Christianson

5TH/6TH GRADE FIELD TRIP

The fifth and sixth grade students visited the hospital in Jamestown, February 13th. There they toured the wellness center where they were given time to try out some of the exercise machines and visited with the director. The director had the students view a screen where they could see the heart beat of those who were in for conditioning the body and heart.

They visited the Physical and Occupational Therapy center where they learned about nerves, muscles and how they retrain the body after surgery or an accident. They also were given time to make a finger splint. Following therapy we visited the lab where the director explained what happens here. When asked about blood types they were shown a unit of blood and explained how blood can be separated into three parts. E.R. and X-Ray were visited next. In X-Ray they were shown an X-Ray machine and explained how it worked and the training it took to do the job. X-Rays are now digital and are sent to another machine for doctors to view and study.

Each area explained the amount of training that is needed, where they can go for training and the need for trained people to work. Math and science were stressed as subjects students need to work at in school.

When we had dinner at McDonalds--- maybe this was the best part.



-Larry Tag

“Get to Know” your Mustang Staff

Each month we are going to “Interview” a member of the Midkota School District staff. Hopefully, you will learn a little bit about the staff that are so fortunate to be able to spend time with your child(ren) each day and perhaps learn something you didn’t know about them. These “Interviews” are picked at random and we hope you enjoy them! This month get to know Mrs. Spickler!

Occupation: High School English—Junior High Reading Teacher

Graduated from: Valley City State University

Hometown: Farm near Grace City

Family: Husband-Elroy Ellingson; Daughter-Heidi; Sons-Justin (Sara), David (Alicia), Nathan (Emily) and 6 grandchildren

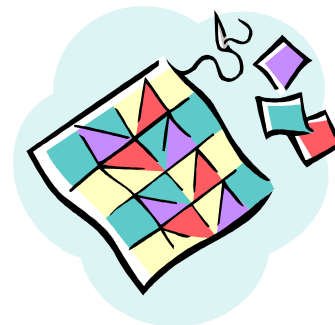
Hobbies: Walking, Traveling, Reading, Enjoying Grandchildren

Favorite Food: Tacos, Chicken, Pasta

Favorite Book: *Sound of Music*

One day I would like to: Travel to England and visit the famous author sites I teach students about and also visit the Holy Land to experience/see the Biblical Sites I have read about.

If I won the lottery I would: Fulfill my traveling dreams, buy something special for each of my family members, and help my favorite charities.



WE WILL HAVE SCHOOL!

PLEASE MAKE NOTE THAT WE WILL HAVE SCHOOL ON
MARCH 6th & MARCH 20TH DUE TO SCHOOL STORM DAYS!

GARBAGE...

Recently the school’s dumpster in Glenfield has had appliances thrown in it and the garbage disposal people WILL NOT pick up our garbage if they find such items! This dumpster is for school use only and the school pays for this dumpster each month. We are asking that you please NOT dump such items into our dumpster. Thank you for your cooperation!

MIDKOTA APPAREL

See inside for the 2009 Midkota Apparel Order.
We will be placing a Midkota Apparel order again this spring so please get the order form and money into the school ASAP. Order deadline is March 16th!

MIDKOTA SCHOOLS - Superintendent Kerwin Borgen

Elementary: 203 Curtis Ave W. ~ Binford, ND 58416 ~ 701.676.2511 ~ Principal Jeanne Hoyt

High School: 81 School Ave ~ Glenfield, ND 58443 ~ 701.785.2126 ~ Principal Gilbert Black

Midkota School District
PO Box 274
McHenry, ND 58464

PRST STD
Non-Profit
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 1
McHenry, ND