

2007-2008

December 2017

the **Be**AT



Going inside...



**Stoddard Students have fun.
Learn more on Pages 3, 4**



**Ben Brink provides real life examples.
Learn more on Page 2**



With the help of media specialist Carol Oltman, Ben Brink illustrates two of his favorite topics to teach students, technology and the stock market.

Brink named *Employee of the Month*



Ben Brink was the November employee of the month.

“Ben is an outstanding teacher who provides his students with innovative and creative opportunities in the classroom,” according to his nominator.

During the last few years, Mr. Brink engaged the Entrepreneurship class in a *Shark Tank* project to help students connect the business world and their classroom. Students created a new product, researched the market, created a marketing plan, and presented to teachers and business entrepreneurs as duplicated from the television series, *Shark Tank*.

During the presentations, the kids were very nervous but presented professionally and eloquently. The students were so excited when they completed their presentations, realizing that they can dream big, and make their dreams

come true.

“As a shark, I was so impressed with how Ben is giving our students the opportunity to create, collaborate, think critically and step into the Shark Tank. Ben is truly preparing them for real life experiences,” the nomination continued.

“In addition to his classroom awesomeness, Ben started a Breakfast Club, which is an investment club where students play the Stock Market Game. Every Tuesday morning at 7:40 a.m. he is in the classroom working with students interested in the stock market and sharing invaluable information to help them make business decisions,” said the nomination.

Ben continues to provide great real world examples which have a lasting, positive impact on the students in our community!

Stoddard Elementary School

Students encouraged to do their very best...

...with technology



What do you like about teaching second grade at Stoddard Elementary?

What I like most about teaching second grade at Stoddard Elementary is the privilege to work with this particular age group of students. They are like a sponge soaking up all sorts of information. It is so gratifying to see light bulbs light up when they finally “get it.” They are becoming independent readers and budding writers. Second graders still have the desire to please their teacher, and yet they are also trying to be independent learners at the same time. They are open about their thoughts and feelings for the most part, and most of them are huggers or still like to be hugged. Finally, what I enjoy most about teaching second grade at Stoddard is the opportunity to work with such a cohesive and caring staff.

Mary Comacho-Cook, Stoddard second grade teacher for 32 years



...in the music classroom



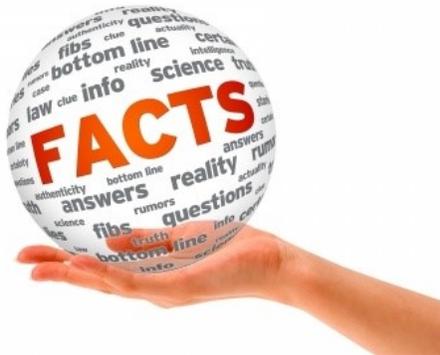
...when using their talents to perform at the Paddock Kensington



Stoddard Elementary School

Students encouraged to do their very best...

- Kindergarten has taken several field trips: fire station, Sunrise Bakery (for treats, not a tour), Chautauqua Park (to see the duck pond) and to the Nebraska Children's Museum. Other Kindergarten special projects: bake apple pies and carve pumpkins.
- First Grade has made gingerbread houses, created math art using symmetry and patterns, graphed using food items at each holiday, built a house out of marshmallows and toothpicks for Library Mouse, made homemade pumpkin muffins, and conducted many science experiments such as expanding ghosts, growing ghosts and making slime.
- Fourth Grade has done a variety of STEM projects: LEGO Balloon cars, Marshmallow Catapults, Jack and the Parachute, Can you Save

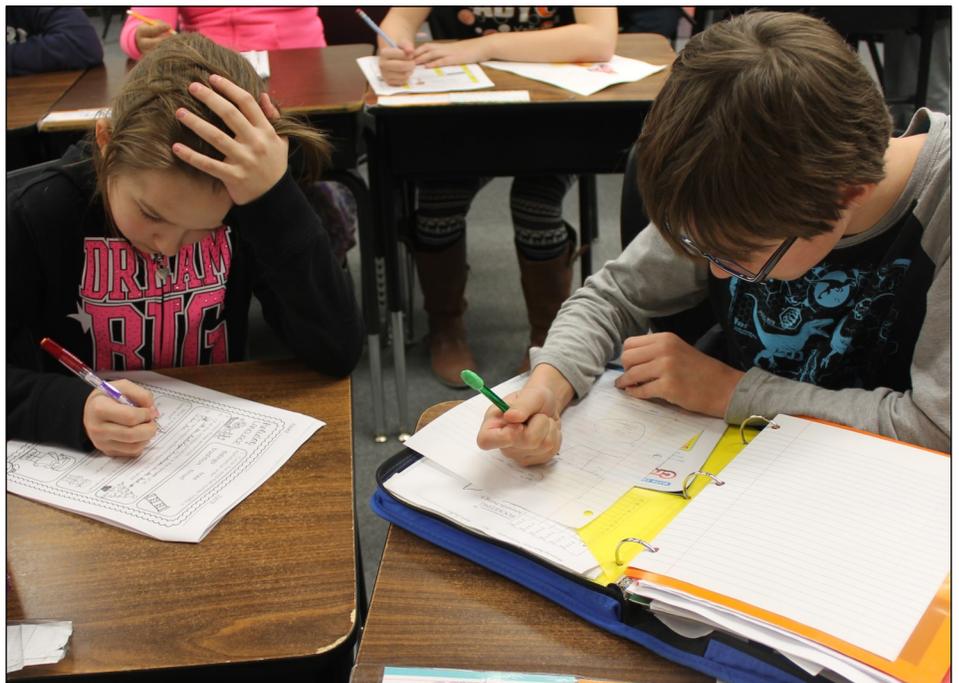


Fred, Make a Tower of out Newspapers and The Cat's in the Bag. Taken Field Trips to Filley Barn and Homestead National Monument. Performed Halloween Plays and preparing for Christmas Plays.

- Fourth and Fifth grade performed patriotic songs at the Kensington. Fifth grade is preparing for Christmas plays. Seventy-two percent of fifth graders at Stoddard are above benchmark on MAP Math.

- Third Grade has been busy doing many STEM projects such as: house of cards, marshmallow structures, and Save Fred. Distance Learning with Matt- the kids can't wait for Science- magnets, animal habitats, and the moon phases. The kids are working really hard to learn cursive handwriting too!!
- The Second Graders have done many STEM projects including: Pumpkin Catapults, Santa's Parachute Challenge, Paper Airplane Challenge, Paper Tower Challenge, Cookie Garage Challenge, Cookie Tower Challenge, Straw Tower Challenge; made Christmas Cards for the Meals on Wheels recipients; toured the Mobile Nebraska Children's Museum; make Stone Soup and bread; U.S. Veteran Mr. Shawn Vater was a Veteran's Day Guest Speaker.

...when working on assignments in the classroom

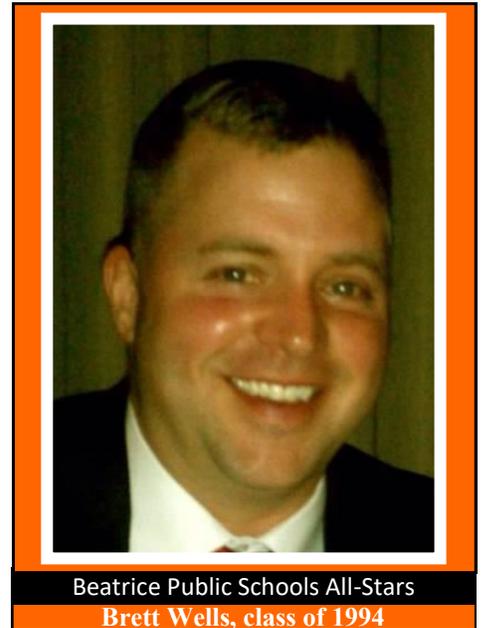


They first staked their claim with Beatrice Public Schools and now are among the best in the nation

Wells fulfills lifetime dream of flying



'Beatrice Public Schools gave me a solid foundation to build on. We had opportunities to be involved beyond the classroom, whether it was sports, Spanish Club, student council, or music. It taught us responsibility, and it taught us early on how to balance a schedule of school work and activities. Even though our class was small relatively speaking, we pushed each other to excel, and in turn we were all better because of it.'



Beatrice Public Schools All-Stars
Brett Wells, class of 1994

After graduating from Beatrice High School and the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado Lt. Col. Brett Wells USAF, became a commissioned officer in the U. S. Air Force to fulfill his longtime love and fascination with flying.

A love which started in kindergarten. His

teacher, Pam Neal, remembers that each time he was given a chance to draw it was always an airplane or a jet dropping bombs.

After graduating from the US Air Force Academy, Wells served four and a half years overseas in Italy and Korea as a F-16 fighter pilot and flying combat missions over both Afghanistan and Iraq. Wells was transferred to the Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, New Mexico, to be a F-117A Nighthawk, or stealth, pilot.

With this new assignment, Wells entered an elite group of pilots becoming a member of the Ninth fighter Squadron Iron Knights and one of the Stealth Bandits.

This year he flew the lead jet in the flyover at the Nebraska-Ohio State football game. This was his third time getting to fulfill another lifetime dream of being a part of a fly over at a Husker game.

He is now a pilot for Fed Ex. In addition to flying full time at Fed Ex, Brett is also flying T-38's in the Air Force Reserves, instructing future fighter and bomber pilots.

He is married to Jessie (Thaut) Wells, a 1994 BHS graduate. They have a son and a daughter.

Brett Wells gets ready for a flight.



Board approves SNDLC Interlocal Agreement

Ben Brink, high school business teacher, was recognized as the November Employee of the Month.

Athletic Director Neal Randel recognized Addy Barnard for being named to the Lincoln Journal Star and Omaha World-Herald Class B All-State first teams. He said she was also selected to the All-Class Second Team. Barnard broke the state record for home runs in a season with 19 and as a sophomore has already broken the career home runs records also.

Randel then recognized Chase Barber, Whitley Kleveland and John Spilker for being named to the All-State Choir. He added that all three students were a part of the recent successful musical.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Pat Nauroth said that instead of the November Committee of the Whole meeting, a special meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 28, would select finalists for the superintendent position. He also said the State Education Conference is this week at the LaVista Conference Center.

Student Report

Student Representative Colton Gronewold said that students are now in the second quarter of the school year. He commended the students who participated in the recent Beauty and the Beast musical as all the performances were very strong. The Veterans Day ceremony was held at the high school and both the band and the choir performed. Students also served coffee and cookies to veterans in the library after the service.

Committee of the Whole

Jon Zimmerman, vice-president reported that the Committee of the Whole discussed the following topics at its October meeting; the art curriculum by middle school art teacher Kirsten Douglas and curriculum director Jackie Nielsen, the Paddock Lane addition by ar-

chitect Michael Fakler, the master facility plan by Pat Phelan, tree removal plans by business manager John Brazell and building and grounds manager Terry Brethouwer, an assessment update by Jackie Nielsen, policy update and central office restructuring by Nauroth. Principal Jason Sutter also addressed the board.

School Community & Staff Relations

Janet Byars, committee chair, said the committee was very busy the past month. She noted the committee met at Stoddard Elementary on Oct. 6, Paddock Lane on Oct. 13, Lincoln Elementary on Oct. 27, the Preschool on Nov. 1 and at the high school on Nov. 10. Byars said the discussion about the superintendent search was a topic at all meetings.

Action Agenda

The board approved the Southeast Nebraska Distance Learning Consortium Interlocal Agreement with ESU #5 and approved the Beatrice Education Association as the exclusive bargaining agent for the district's non-supervisory certificated staff for the 2019-20 contract year.

The board also heard second readings on five policies.

Business Manager John Brazell said the district was working with Security First Bank about providing a debit card with the Orangemen logo on it. Verdella Vetrovsky, bank president, told the board that a handful of districts statewide are doing this and they are very excited to offer them. She explained that Security First will provide \$5 per card issued to the district.

Administrator's Report

Principal Jason Sutter said that during the Nov. 21 Focus on Education program he will provide an update on the community involvement activities of the high school including

- Painting a house with a partnership

with Keep Beatrice Beautiful

- Student Council members participate in the "Giving Tree" at Walmart
- Reception after the Veteran's Day ceremony
- Clothes Closet and Hygiene Drive
- American Government students complete 10 hours of community service (also a graduation requirement)
- "Pink Out" activities that generated over \$6,000 for cancer assistance
- College Access participates in the Night of the Great Pumpkin event and hosted a community tailgate in the fall

Next Meetings

A Committee of the Whole meeting will not be held in December. The next board meeting will be on Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Central Administration Building.

Beatrice Public Schools Board of Education

Janet Byars

Doris Martin

Lisa Pieper, President

Nancy Sedlacek

Steve Winter

Jon Zimmerman, Vice-President

Board of Education Meetings

Dec. 11, 7 p.m.

Board of Education Meeting