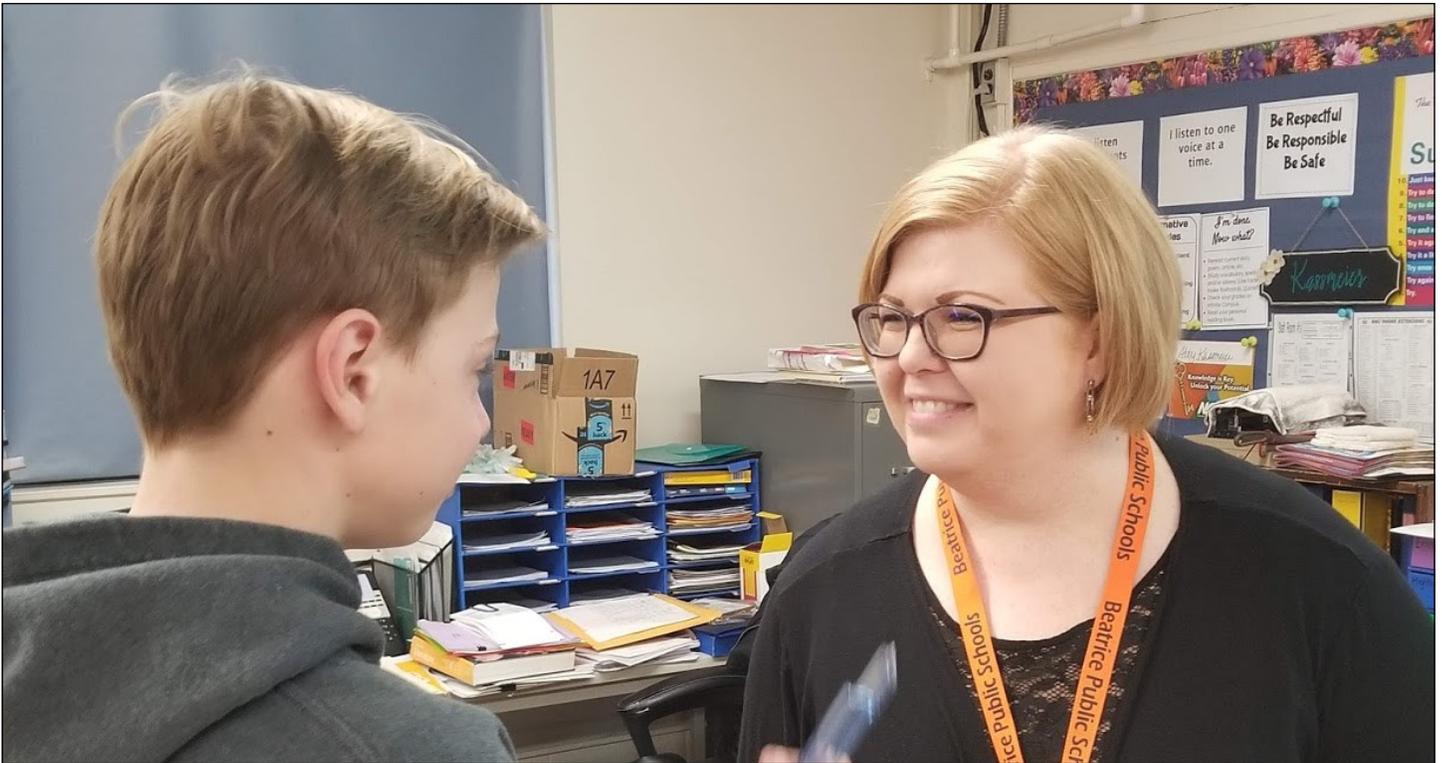




*Students
serve up
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chocolate,
coffee and
so much
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Page 3*

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Abby Kassmeier visits with a student during class. (below) Kassmeier (second from right) with Hope Squad members at an event.

Kassmeier named Employee of the Month

Seventh grade English teacher Abby Kassmeier was the January employee of the month.

Kassmeier's dedication to learning is evidenced by her consistent and tireless efforts in preparing thoughtful, engaging lessons for her students, according to her nominator. She designs lessons and learning opportunities based on standards as well as student needs as revealed by her formative assessments.

Technology also plays a key role in Kassmeier's classroom. Recognizing that technology does not replace good teaching, she uses technology thoughtfully; always looking for new tools to help engage the students.



In addition, Kassmeier works tirelessly to make sure that her students receive timely feedback so that they can right away apply the skills that they have mastered and further practice the skills that are lacking.

“As a colleague of Kassmeier, I can also

testify to her helpfulness as a PLC team leader,” said her nominator. “She shares resources, lesson ideas, and organization strategies that help to make all of our classrooms run more smoothly.”

Kassmeier has also taken a lead in the Beatrice Middle School Hope Squad. She teaches lessons, provides students with thoughtful discussion, and listens when students share concerns so she can disseminate the information and find possible resources.

“If there is something to be said about great, solid teaching and professionalism, I can certainly say it about Abby Kassmeier. She is a model teacher and colleague,” said her nominator.

Be

Keep track of what is going on in Beatrice Public Schools.

Go to <http://www.beatricepublicschools.org/vcalendar/>

in the know

www.beatricepublicschools.org



Kafe Kindness connects students, develops skills

“The Kindness Kafe is off to a great start,” according to assistant principal Philip Voigt, “students who are typically shy or who do not typically interact with the student body are loving showing up and working.”

The idea for the Kafe was Voigt's but was put into action by the Circle of Friends organization. “I read about other schools who had opened coffee shops for their life skill students. I liked the idea but wanted to expand it to encompass more so used the Circle

of Friends which does include many life skills students but also other students from the student body to create an environment where we are connecting students who may not interact with each other through classes,” said Voigt.

English teacher Emily Iverson is the Circle of Friends sponsor. She is pleased with the results so far. Circle of Friends started opening the coffee shop Kafe Kindness every Tuesday and Thursday morning since coming

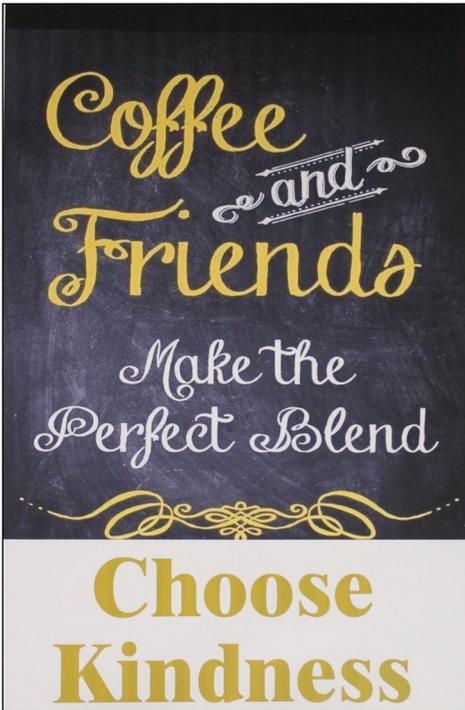
back from Christmas break. Shift workers that are a constant fixture in the room are Chelsea Denton, John Westlake-Melroy and Joey Staley. “These students have learned how to communicate, conversation etiquette, become friends with students outside their comfort zone, manners, and so much more,” said Iverson.

Not only do students run the Kafe but they also learn speaking skills. “Austin Wolken made an outstanding announcement for our Valentine's special,” said Iverson.

The Kafe is only a small part of the impact Circle of Friends is having on the students involved. Students have gained connections to other students to seek out at lunch and in the halls. “I have seen students come out of their shells and interact with each other,” said Voigt, “friendships and social skills have grown for all students involved and the feeling of membership, camaraderie, and belonging have been established.”



Customers enjoy hot chocolate with the fixings



Making a Difference

Elementary students promote respect among others and build happier, safer communities



The Great Kindness Challenge®



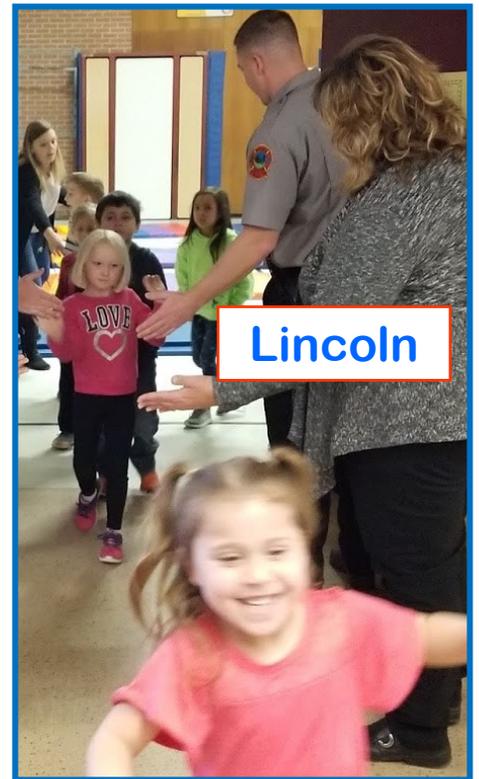
Week kicks off with tunnel walk at each school



Stoddard



Paddock Lane



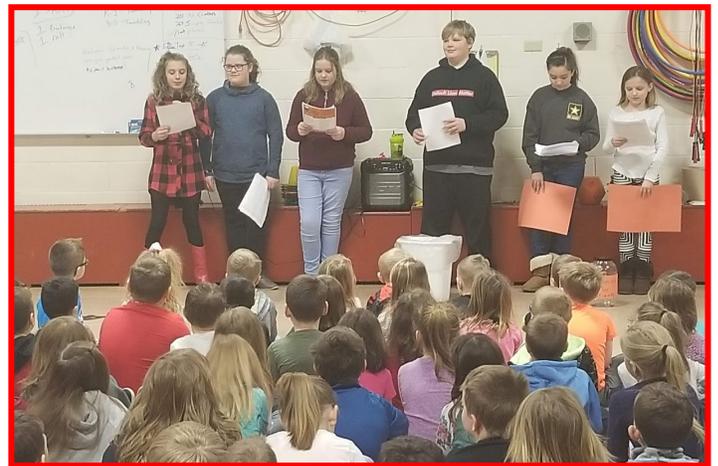
Lincoln



Making a Difference

The Great Kindness Challenge.®

(clockwise) Students at Lincoln and Stoddard presented flowers to their teachers as a part of The Great Kindness Challenge. It is a nationwide kindness initiative to promote respect among others and build happier, safer communities. Students kicked off kindness week with an assembly at each school. At the end of the assembly students ran through a tunnel made up of school and community members. Students led the assemblies at all schools.



They first staked their claim with Beatrice Public Schools and are now making a difference every day

Smith named to Aviation Hall of Fame



'BHS prepared me to enter the work force upon which I built my career. Teachers were supportive in directing and giving helpful information to me to be able to move forward into the work force. I feel BHS gave me the strength and important sense of commitment of a good working ethic to move into the world following high school.'



Diana Smith is the manager of the Beatrice Airport and was recently selected for induction into the Nebraska Aviation Hall of Fame. She began working at the airport in 1971 and was named the manager in 2000. She worked with the previous Airport Manager for 30 years. "He provided me the experience and training to make it a smooth transition," said Smith.

She is a founding member of the Nebraska Aviation Council and was instrumental in the creation of the annual Nebraska Aviation Symposium. She served as the secretary/treasurer for NAC, as vice-president three times, and as chairperson in 1998 and 2014 to 2016.

She is also a member of the Nebraska Association of Airport Officials and served as secretary/treasurer from 1995 to 1998. Smith is a lifetime member of the Flying Conestoga's having served as secretary since 2009.

In 2013 Governor Dave Heineman appointed Smith to the Nebraska Aeronautics Commission. "I work closely with the Nebraska Division of Aeronautics and many local communities

across the state in the administration of the various state and federal programs for the development of airports," said Smith. She served as chairperson in 2015.

"On her nomination to the Hall of Fame, Diana was described "as a strong and effective aviation supporter and has encouraged many pilots both young and old to pursue their aviation interests."

"She is well-respected by the aviation community and is proactive in meeting the challenges facing Nebraska's flying public. Nebraska's aviation community certainly has benefitted from her efforts," according to the nomination.



Diana Smith in her office at the Beatrice Airport. She was recently named to the Nebraska Aviation Hall of Fame.

Board approves video board project

English teacher Abby Kassmeier was recognized as the December Employee of the Month. She received a plaque and \$50 in Chamber Bucks.

Jon Zimmerman was elected board president. Other officers elected were Doris Martin, vice-president; Assistant Superintendent Jackie Nielsen, secretary; and Superintendent Jason Alexander, treasurer.

Committee appointments were made by Zimmerman. School and Community Staff Relations are Janet Byars, chair; Erin Chadwick and Eric Trusty. Americanism Committee are Doris Martin, chair; Lisa Pieper and Steve Winter. Negotiations Committee are Janet Byars, Doris Martin and Jon Zimmerman. Steve Winter was appointed as the NASB Legislative delegate and Doris Martin was named the Government Relations Network Representative.

Principal Jason Sutter recognized Chase Barber, Matthew Jobman, Matt Price, and John Spilker for receiving All-State Music Awards.

Student Report

Hannah Rinne said the first semester ended well in December and students are back into the routine of second semester. She said the winter sports teams have started the semester with lots of competition. Key Club assisted with the local Mudecas basketball tournament.

Discussion

Alexander noted on the second reading of Policy 9110, Number of Members, Terms of Office and Vacancies is needed to reflect the decision of the board to move to seven members.

Audit Report

Alexander introduced Ryan Bruns from Dana Cole to discuss the audit report. Bruns provided some generalizations of the entire report by section. He

said the audit did not show any mistakes and that there was a net change of approximately \$284,000.

Discussion

Alexander explained Policy 3580 about Insufficient Funds. He said the \$10 fee currently reflected in the policy does not match the fee the district office currently charges. He recommended not listing the specific fee so that the policy does not have to be changed every time the fee is changed.

Action

Alexander was approved as the district's Federal Grant Representative and Financial Representative.

Pinnacle Bank, Security First Bank and First National Bank of Omaha-Beatrice and Bank of the West were approved at depository banks for Beatrice Public Schools.

Approval was given to the contract with Daktronics for the video board project. The payment for the video board will be approximately \$30,769 and the activities department will receive about \$9,000 for five years. After the initial five years, terms are renewable as determined by an additional agreement.

Approval was also given to the 2017-18 audit.

Administrator's Report

Preschool Director Missy Timmerman thanked the board for its continued support of early childhood. She said enrollment for the 2019-20 school year would open on Jan. 15 and a part of the announcement would be a marketing video on the preschool program that was prepared by FES. Alexander said Timmerman put in a tremendous amount of time providing FES with the information needed to produce the video.

Superintendent's Report

Alexander provided a brief recap of where we have been legislatively. He shared the following concerns; continued mischaracterization of schools as "overspending" and property taxes as the source of the problem, debate between any new revenue sources, and Medicaid expansion. He said he has an upcoming STANCE meeting at the capital on Thursday where area superintendents will be meeting with the Education Committee members. Alexander informed the board that staff heard a terrific inspirational speaker, Dr. Jo, on their first day back on Jan. 7.

Next Meetings

The Committee of the Whole meeting will be Feb. 28 at the Central Administration Building.

The next board meeting will be on March 11 at 7 p.m. at the Central Administration Building.

Beatrice Public Schools Board of Education

Janet Byars

Erin Chadwick

Doris Martin, Vice-President

Lisa Pieper

Eric Trusty

Steve Winter

Jon Zimmerman, President

Jason Alexander, Superintendent

Upcoming Meetings

Feb. 28, 6 p.m.

Committee of the Whole Meeting

March 11, 7 p.m.

Board of Education Meeting