

# Stanton Community Schools

Home & School CONNECTION! (Working Together for School Success)

Volume XV, Issue 7

January 30, 2018

## Reporters

Dr. Sieh ..... Superintendent  
Dr. Cunningham..... H.S. Principal  
Mrs. McKeon..... Elementary Principal  
Mrs. Fernau.....Guidance Counselor  
Mrs. Holoubek ..... School Nurse  
Mrs. Liekhus ..... Librarian

## Events Calendar

- February 2**
- Curriculum/School Improvement Workshop for Staff (K-6: No School, 7-12: 11:35 a.m. dismissal)
- February 12**
- School Board Meeting (7:00 p.m.)
- February 27**
- P/T Conferences (4:30 - 8 p.m.) - 2:40 p.m. dismissal
- February 28**
- P/T Conferences (4:30 - 8 p.m.) - 2:40 p.m. dismissal
- March 2**
- No School (P/T Comp Day)



[www.scs-ne.org](http://www.scs-ne.org)  
(402)439-2233

## From the Superintendent's Desk

By Michael J. Sieh

### Next Community Forum Coming!

A Community Forum is set for March 28, 2018 at the Stanton Elementary building at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the forum will be to seek community input into Stanton Community Schools' future building needs.

To give you some background, the district started to look at options for replacing the modular buildings at the elementary. Discussions determined that a facility study was needed to answer questions concerning all properties of the school district. Cannon Moss Brygger Architects from Grand Island completed a facility study on all properties owned by the district during the 2016-2017 school year. The facility study provided us with the current conditions of all district owned properties. The study also revealed some fire and handicap compliance issues.

During last school year, the district hosted 2 community forums to gather input from our patrons concerning our future building needs. To help bring concepts from being so abstract to more concrete, the district's architect will provide us some potential ideas.

Following the architect's presentation, a round table forum will be held to discuss the possible solutions as well as giving participants the opportunity to ask follow-up questions.

Since people who attend

the forum will have firsthand knowledge of the facility study, the future building needs of the district, and the architect's potential solutions, we request everyone to try to make this important forum. Hopefully, the round table environment will generate discussion and eventually consensus.

Whatever the whole community eventually decides the needs of the district are, my hope is to have a complete district master plan in place so any future project fits into the master plan.

I also know that property taxes are weighing heavily on landowners minds for the farm economy is currently gloomy. But understand, we need to have a master plan in place for future decisions. A timeline is always a part of an excellent master plan.

Currently, we have a buildings, grounds, and transportation action plan that determines what needs to be completed by the maintenance and custodial staff over the next few years. We prioritize our spending as well from this action plan. However, we currently are putting things on hold until we gather input from our community to help us determine the master plan for future building projects.

Summer is the school's time to improve our facilities. Therefore, we needed to have this meeting prior to the end of the school year. In fact,

the members of the Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation Committee will be scheduled to meet in April. The committee will walk through the entire facilities and make recommendations as to what should be included on our action plan for the upcoming years. I would assume that the results of the forum will greatly affect the results of the walk-through, especially how we prioritize items on the final action plan.

I hope this forum environment works for the community of Stanton. I want to ensure that all opinions are expressed and considered, but in the end, I hope that the community makes the best educational decision for the current and future students of our great district.

During this study, I have had several people ask me about different things that they have heard concerning a building project. I would caution everyone in believing everything you hear for no decisions have been made. What I do know is that a K-6 building would cost about \$15 million, a 7-12 building would cost about \$17 million, and a K-12 building would cost about \$30 million. I also know that taxes would increase about 1 cent per million dollars borrowed.

Thank you to those who completely read this article and are now considering attending this forum.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Questions??? Please Call!  
Central Office – 439-2233  
High School Office – 439-2250  
Elementary Office – 439-2639

# The Principal's Perspective

By Dave Cunningham

## What Is Cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is more prevalent now than ever. It is something that many of us digital transplants did not have to deal with when we were going through our teenage years or even younger years. Students today are digital natives, due to the fact that they have not known life without digital devices.

The following information was taken from [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov). The website offers great tips for parents and students but also provides numerous statistics to help us better understand where our students are with technology. I encourage you to visit the website and read through the different articles. The topics on [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov) include cyberbullying tactics, preventing cyberbullying, social media and gaming, digital awareness for parents, establishing rules, tips for teachers, and reporting cyberbullying.

Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place over digital devices like cell phones, computers, and tablets. Cyberbullying can occur through SMS, text, and apps, or online in social media, forums, or gaming where people can view, participate in, or share content. Cyberbullying includes sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, false, or mean content about someone else. It can include sharing personal or private information about someone else causing embarrassment or humiliation. Some cyberbullying crosses the line into unlawful or criminal behavior.

The most common places where cyberbullying occurs are

- Social Media, such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Twitter
- SMS (Short Message Service) also known as Text Message sent through devices
- Instant Message (via devices,

email provider services, apps, and social media messaging features)

### • Email

### Special Concerns

With the prevalence of social media and digital forums, comments, photos, posts, and content shared by individuals can often be viewed by strangers as well as acquaintances. The content an individual shares online - both their personal content as well as any negative, mean, or hurtful content - creates a kind of permanent public record of their views, activities, and behavior. This public record can be thought of as an online reputation, which may be accessible to schools, employers, colleges, clubs, and others who may be researching an individual now or in the future. Cyberbullying can harm the online reputations of everyone involved - not just the person being bullied, but those doing the bullying or participating in it. Cyberbullying has unique concerns in that it can be

- Persistent - Digital devices offer an ability to immediately and continuously communicate 24 hours a day, so it can be difficult for children experiencing cyberbullying to find relief.
- Permanent - Most information communicated electronically is permanent and public, if not reported and removed. A negative online reputation, including for those who bully, can impact college admissions, employment, and other areas of life.
- Hard to Notice - Because teachers and parents may not overhear or see cyberbullying taking place, it is harder to recognize.

Please visit [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov) to find more information and articles to help stop cyberbullying. The more information we have as parents, allows us to have the

# Messages from Mrs. McKeon

By Mary McKeon

## Talking to Your Child About Report Cards

You've just received your child's report card. Now what? A child's report card can bring feelings of joy, excitement, and pride; it can also cause concern, frustration, and uncertainty. In either case, the reporting period marks a new beginning to set goals as well as reflect on past work habits, achievements, and hardships. Most important, it is a time for parents to communicate with their children and determine a path for future academic enrichment and social/emotional growth.

Regardless of the grades your child brings home, you must first focus on positive aspects of the report card. This is not always an easy task. For some parents, this might mean highlighting a strong effort or citizenship grade, or congratulating an academic accomplishment. It could mean praising a perfect attendance record or acknowledging a small improvement shown in a particular area. Starting on a positive note shows your child that you truly care about the accomplishments, not only areas that need improvement.

Also, use this time to look at past performance and plan for the future. Talk to your child, asking questions to understand how a particular grade was earned. The answers you receive might indicate a need to review your child's study habits. Determine whether or not your child is recording all assignments and bringing home

all materials necessary to complete them. Is your child completing all homework on a nightly basis or are assignments being turned in late, or not at all? Once you have determined the problem, you can begin to create a solution.

Creating a plan to maximize future academic success is an important part of every child's education. Help your child set realistic and attainable goals for the next reporting period. Outline ways in which these goals can be met, as well as rewards and consequences if they are not met. Type or write the "official plan" and post one copy in a prominent place in your house, another in your child's binder or folder, and forward another copy to your child's teacher. Involving your child gives him or her ownership and importance in this process; and this makes the report card important not only to you, but also to your child.

As parents, we want the best for our children. Emphasize to your child the importance of doing the very best job that he or she can. Encourage him or her to succeed, and measure progress in realistic terms, letting him or her know that you care and are available to help. Break tasks into small steps, so that even the youngest child can measure his or her growth. By reviewing the report card, and developing a plan for the future, you will help your child find the road to success.

## GO MUSTANGS!

conversations with our child to help combat cyberbullying and keep our own child safe from cyberbullying. If you would like to have further conversation about the topic, please do not hesitate to speak with me in person, email, or a phone call. Open dialogue on this topic is important to keep all kids safe.

## SAVE THE DATE!

American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held March 28<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the middle school gym.

# Holoubek's Health Tips

By Lisa Holoubek

## American Heart Month/National Wear Red Day

The American Heart Association wants to help everyone live longer, healthier lives so they can enjoy all of life's precious moments. And we know that starts with taking care of your health. American Heart Month, a federally designated event, is a great way to remind Americans to focus on their hearts and encourage them to get their families, friends and communities involved. Together, we can build a culture of health where making the healthy choice is the easy choice. Why? Because Life is Why.

### Did you know?

- The first American Heart Month, which took place in February 1964, was proclaimed by President Lyndon B. Johnson via Proclamation 3566 on December 30, 1963.
- The Congress, by joint resolution on that date, has requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating February as American Heart Month.
- At that time, more than half the deaths in the U.S. were

caused by cardiovascular disease.

- While American Heart Month is a federally designated month in the United States, it's important to realize that cardiovascular disease knows no borders. Cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke, remains the leading global cause of death with more than 17.3 million deaths each year.
- That number is expected to rise to more than 23.6 million by 2030.
- President Lyndon B. Johnson's proclamation declared February as American Heart Month

The above is taken from the AHA website; Check it out for further information on achieving and maintaining a healthy lifestyle, including cardiovascular health:

[http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/HealthyLiving/HealthyEating/Nutrition/The-American-Heart-Associations-Diet-and-Lifestyle-Recommendations\\_UCM\\_305855\\_Article.jsp](http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/HealthyLiving/HealthyEating/Nutrition/The-American-Heart-Associations-Diet-and-Lifestyle-Recommendations_UCM_305855_Article.jsp)

## Thinking Outside the Box!!!

(Unknown) In a small Italian town, hundreds of years ago, a small business owner owed a large sum of money to a loan-shark. The loanshark was a very old, unattractive looking guy that just so happened to fancy the business owner's daughter. He decided to offer the businessman a deal that would completely wipe out the debt he owed him. However, the catch was that he would only wipe out the debt if he could marry the businessman's daughter. Needless to say, this proposal was met with a look of disgust. The loanshark said that he would place two pebbles into a bag, one white and one black. The daughter would then have to reach into the bag and pick out a pebble. If it was black, the debt would be wiped, but the loanshark would then marry her. If it was white, the debt would also be wiped, but the daughter wouldn't have to marry the loanshark. Standing on a pebble strewn path in the businessman's garden, the loanshark bent over and picked up two pebbles. Whilst he was picking them up, the daughter noticed that he'd picked up two black pebbles and placed them both into the bag. He then asked the daughter to reach into the bag and pick one.

The daughter naturally had three choices as to what she could have done

1. Refuse to pick a pebble from the bag.
2. Take both pebbles out of the bag and expose the loanshark for cheating.
3. Pick a pebble from the bag fully well knowing it was black and sacrifice herself for her father's freedom.

She drew out a pebble from the bag, and before looking at it 'accidentally' dropped it into the midst of the other pebbles. She said to the loanshark: "Oh, how clumsy of me. Never mind, if you look into the bag for the one that is left, you will be able to tell which pebble I picked."

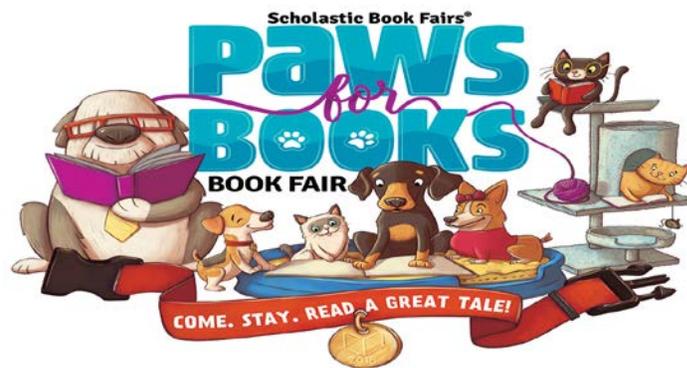
## Paws for Books

(Liekhus) The Stanton Elementary Book Fair will be held in the elementary Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> - Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Opening day (February 23<sup>rd</sup>) will be a "preview day" for the classrooms. During this time each of the classrooms will get a sneak peak of the book fair. There will be no purchases made during this time. The book fair will officially open for business on Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup> and remain open through Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Each of the classrooms will have the opportunity to shop during their scheduled library times. The Book Fair will be open for business 4:00-8:00pm on the evenings of Parent/Teacher Conferences (February 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>). Families are invited to come and shop during business hours. There will be a large assortment of scholastic books (popular titles) to choose from.

Posters, journals, bookmarks, pens/pencils are just a few of the other items available. When making your purchases, please make checks payable to Stanton Community Schools. Credit and debit cards will also be accepted.

Get the Book Fair app and shop the Online Fair directly from your device! You can view book details, including age, grade, and reading levels. Plus, you can purchase books directly from your Online Fair, and all orders ship FREE to our school!

Also, you may purchase book/books for your child's/children's classrooms for them to enjoy in school. Let us take your shopping experience to a whole new level. Come check it out! A letter and book pamphlet will go home with the students prior to the book fair. Books make a great gift for any occasion. Welcome shoppers!!



## Counselor Fernau Advises Juniors

**Schedule a campus visit.** Your upcoming spring break is a good time to visit schools that interest you. Some colleges also have special dates set aside for "juniors only" visits. This would be a good opportunity to get information from the colleges that is directed to juniors and gives a more comprehensive look at what the college has to offer. Check the admission page at the college website under "Campus Visits" for available dates and sign up instructions.

If you want to sign up for an individual tour, you will most likely have to fill out a form online at the college admission website. Here are a few tips to consider.

- **Schedule your visits at least two weeks in advance.** Ask for appointments with an admissions representative, financial aid counselor, and a faculty member in your area of interest.
- **Try to visit while the colleges are in session.** You won't get the true flavor during breaks or finals week.
- **Be prepared with questions to ask.** It's important for YOU to ask questions, not just your mom or dad.
- **Talk to a faculty member** about upper-level classes in your anticipated major. This will help you understand the coursework that will be required and the degree of difficulty.

# Counselor's Corner

By Lindy Fernau

## Important Financial Aid Information for Seniors and Parents

Those students who have applied to college and had their FAFSA information sent to that college will soon receive a Financial Aid Package from the college. Most colleges do not send this through the mail but it will be found on their college account online. A notice that the Financial Aid Package is ready to check may or may not be sent via email. Students will need to check their account periodically. This package will include the cost of attendance at the college and a list of what type of aid they can offer. This aid may include some or all the categories listed

1. **Scholarships** - offered from the college (student does not have to pay back)
2. **Grants** - (student does not have to pay back)
3. **Work Study** - Student must apply for one of the on-campus jobs to receive this money as they work through the semester. This money is NOT available for tuition, books, fees, or room/board. It is

money for any incidentals the student will need such as travel expenses or food not part of a cafeteria plan.

4. **Loans** - This is money that the student or parent must pay back depending on which type is offered. There are also forms that need to be filled out separately for this type of aid.

a. **Subsidized loan** - Federal government pays the interest on these loans while the student is still attending college so the principal amount does not go up. This is in the **student's name** and payments start as early as 6 months after graduation or when no longer enrolled in college.

b. **Unsubsidized loan** - the government does not pay the interest each year. A student can pay the interest each year or have it applied to the principal and pay it 6 months after graduation or when no longer enrolled in

college. This is also in the **student's name** and is the student's responsibility to pay it back.

- c. **Parent Plus Loan** - This loan is taken out in the **parent's name** and will be the **parent's responsibility** to pay it back. The payments will start right away while the student is attending college and continue until the balance is paid.

One thing to remember is that a student will have the opportunity to accept or decline each type of aid offered. Also, if students are offered a certain amount of loan \$'s and they would like to borrow less, they can contact the financial aid office of that college and they can set up a new Financial Aid Package with the correct information for the student to sign. The college factors in quite a bit of money for incidental expenses that perhaps the student will not need or can be covered by working part time

or from money that was saved. It is always a good idea to limit the amount of money that the student borrows. The loans are offered at a good interest rate but can really add up over a 4-year period and starting wages may not be enough to cover the monthly payments. Certainly, something to consider as the student is accepting or declining the Financial Aid Package.

### **Local scholarships:**

Seniors will have access to the local scholarships in February. Many of them are due March 1<sup>st</sup> or April 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are part of an organization that offers a scholarship each year, please contact Lindy Fernau at the high school to let her know if there will be any changes from last year. A current list of all scholarships can be found on the school webpage under guidance. It takes a few clicks to get there but the list is sorted by their due dates.

**Spring is coming!**

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Happy Valentine's™ Day! Love is a thing that is sometimes difficult to express. It is always felt and your love is certainly the most amazing feeling I ever have. Happy Valentine's™ Day! When two hearts become one, they make the world complete. Indeed, nothing more is needed in this world than love. [Verse 3: André© 3000] Happy Valentine's Day, every day the 14th Now, I know your hearts have grown cold And that bothers me Now, I understand, 'cause I used to be a bad boy in my day I know you tryin' to protect your lil' feelings But you can't run away Ho-oh. [Chorus: Joi, Screechy Peach & André© 3000] Ya won't believe in me But you would fancy Hey, don't you supposed to be Some kind of player, or something?