



HOOFPRIINT



Shickley Public School - Preparing Students for Success

 Mark your calendars for
 the following important
 dates:

January 3rd
 Teacher In-Service.

January 4th
 School Resumes.

January 5th
 School Dismissed
 at 2:30 P.M.

January 8th
 School Board Meeting
 at 7:00 P.M.

January 19th
 School Dismissed
 at 2:30 P.M.

Please check Joyce's
 calendar for more events.

Notes from Mr. Jorgenson

Happy New Year! It doesn't seem that long ago when 2018 seemed very far away, but here we are ready to get started with another great year at Shickley Public School. Did you set any resolutions? Are you going to try and stop consuming caffeine or exercise more? Other ideas? If you did, I truly hope that you are able to stick with those changes. Change can be hard for anyone, but setting a goal and trying to achieve it is an essential part of life. If you don't know where you want to go, then how do you know which path to take? I hope as this new year starts you are able to set some goals and make some changes in your life for the better. Maybe it won't make anything better, but you will never know if you do not give it a try. Have a great 2018!

With a new year it also means that the legislature is going to be firing up as their first day is January 3rd. This session could be wild. For the past two years, senators have been trying to find ways for property tax relief and have not been able to bring anything to the floor that was successful. I truly feel that this will be a focus this year especially because it is an election year for some senators. Being able to pass some sort of tax relief would secure many of them for another term. What is the property tax relief going to look like? It is very uncertain. There were a few things last year that were attempted but failed. I wonder if they will try to breathe life back into one of those bills or if they will try something new. So as you can see, this session is going to be unpredictable. The school board and I will keep an eye on what the legislature proposes and we will pass that information along.

Bryce Jorgenson
 Superintendent
bjorgenson@longhornpower.org

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#shickleylonghorns

Field Trip to Dairy Farm

On Friday, December 8th, the kindergarten through third grade students took a field trip to Beavers' Dairy Farm just south of Shickley. The farm is owned and operated by Brett and Traci Beavers and Bob and Becky Beavers. The purpose of the trip was to teach students where our food comes from. Both the students and teachers were impressed with the advanced technology the dairy uses on a day-to-day, minute-by-minute basis. The robots that milk the cows were particularly interesting, as well as the robot that sweeps silage out of the aisles and back toward the cows.

Owner, Brett Beavers, encouraged the students to always actively pursue their dreams and use their imaginations. He went on to explain that as a student he was busy sketching and drawing, which helped him as an adult to design his barns to his exact specifications. He told the students there are many opportunities available to them in the field of agriculture, and that, if they can dream it, they can do it.

The kindergarten through third grade students had a fantastic time touring the dairy! Everyone especially enjoyed the delicious milk and cookies snack that was provided to us. We thank the Beavers' family for the tour, and for providing approximately 15,000 people with milk through their hard work.

Pictured on the left is owner Brett Beavers explaining how the milking robot works. Pictured on the right are students petting one of the cows.



Student Involvement with Kindness Challenge - Educators Health Alliance (EHA)

As you've seen in past articles, the teachers and staff belong to a group called the Educators Health Alliance, also known as EHA. This is a program that benefits not only physical health, but also mental and spiritual wellness. A future goal of this group is involving students in the EHA program. This month several teachers have included their students in the Kindness Challenge. Miss Witte, Mrs. Yantzee, and Mrs. Nelson are working together, along with their classes, collecting donations for coats, hats, boots, blankets, and food items for those people in need during the holidays. They have gotten other classes excited about donating too. Each member of the third grade was challenged to bring something to donate. Third grade students have also sent letters to deployed soldiers through the group Operation Gratitude. They also wanted the custodians, cooks, secretaries, and administrators to know how important they are in this school, so they made them a special Christmas treat. Students worked together at school during the month of December by spreading kindness throughout the world.

Pictured on the left are the third graders with their letters to deployed soldiers. Pictured on the right are Layton Fiala and Bennet Jorgenson making treats for the staff.



Online and Dual Credit Courses Offered at Shickley High School

Completing the required coursework to earn a high school diploma from Shickley Public School is a given for nearly all of our students. Because our students are dedicated to their studies and see the benefits of continuing their education, many have made the decision to earn college credit while still in high school. Shickley students have the opportunity to earn dual credit, credit that is given at both the high school and collegiate level simultaneously, and online credit, which is college credit only, during both their junior and senior years of high school. The courses students have the opportunity to take for dual credit taught by their own teachers are: Companion Animals, Agribusiness, Fundamentals of Ag Marketing, English Composition I, Appreciation of Literature, College Algebra, and Calculus I. Most Shickley students will enter college with anywhere between 3-23 credit hours. Registration for dual credit and online classes was completed before Christmas break.

Visiting Writer Series Kicks Off with Visiting Playwright

On Monday, December 11th, playwright Colleen O’Doherty visited Shickley High School. While in attendance, she worked with each of the high school grade levels, teaching a playwriting workshop during which students learned about key elements of theatre: theatricality/drama, protagonist/antagonist, the main character’s goal, obstacles encountered, and actions taken to achieve the goal. Each student was challenged to create a dramatic situation and write a two-minute scene or monologue encompassing all the key elements. Toward the end of each class period, students teamed up to share their work with the class by reading stage directions and lines written during the workshop time.

During reading block, an assembly was held in the main gym for a reading of O’Doherty’s work. Junior high and high school students and teachers were in attendance, and the event was open to the public. Mikaela Andersen, Jady Kleinschmidt, and Caitlin Mosier read character roles in O’Doherty’s ten-minute play “The Courage of Elena the Great-a.” Raegan Fiala read stage directions. At the conclusion of the reading, audience members were encouraged to ask O’Doherty questions.

The Geneva Arts Council and the Shickley Community Foundation have funded grants that help make the Visiting Writer Series possible. In Shickley, the grant was funded by the Shickley Community Foundation Fund, an affiliate of the Nebraska Community Foundation. Special thanks to the Shickley Community Foundation and the Geneva Arts Council!

Longhorn Speech Team Gears Up for 2018 Season

As first semester wrapped up, the Longhorn speakers jumped into speech mode. Students determined which events they will participate in during the upcoming speech season, selected scripts, researched and drafted speeches, met with coaches, and started rehearsing.

Once the season kicks off in January, parents and community members are invited to attend speech meets in support of the team. Also, mark your calendar for *Longhorn Speech Night* which will be *Monday, March 12*. Additional information about start times will be available in the daily announcements as dates draw near.

Shickley Speech Schedule 2018 [Tentative]

Saturday, January 20	Thayer Central
Saturday, January 27	Osceola
Saturday, February 3	Crete
Saturday, February 17	David City Aquinas
Wednesday, February 21	CRC @ Meridian
Saturday, February 24	Holdrege
Saturday, March 3	Doniphan-Trumbull
Monday, March 12	Longhorn Speech Night
Tuesday, March 13	District D2-1 @ Lincoln Southwest
Friday, March 23	State Contest @ Kearney

All team departure times and tournament start times are TBA.

7th Grade English News

Writing is such an important part of an individual's life. Most students struggle to write well-written, cohesive, evidence-based sentences and paragraphs. The 7th grade English class is working on fine tuning their writing skills by utilizing the TAG method. The TAG method consists of: Turning a question into a statement; Answering the question by using evidence; and Giving examples and details. Because of this writing acronym, the students are beginning to see success in their writing and are understanding the importance of being able to prove a point eloquently.

8th Grade English News

Being technologically savvy is a necessary skill for all students. As a way to improve students' abilities to connect their learning style with technology, the 8th grade English class created a hyper doc for the short story *To Build a Fire* by Jack London. The students were required to incorporate pictures, videos, text, and drawings to explain their assigned topic and then connect it to the class doc. The hyper doc is used as a way to review for the test, to learn more information about one of the assigned topics, or just to enjoy the videos attached.

ASVAB Testing for Sophomores Rescheduled

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) has been rescheduled for January 31st for all sophomores and those interested in joining the military. Even though this is the test required to join the military forces, it also has many benefits to non-military students. The students will answer questions that showcase their strengths and aptitudes for different careers and fields of study. It is a great indicator of a student's all-around strengths and weaknesses that will be utilized in their future employment endeavors.

Visiting Writer Series Continues in January with Poet Michael J. Grove

Our Visiting Writer Series will continue in January with poet Michael J. Grove on Wednesday, January 17th. He will work with high school students in small workshop settings during their English class periods. Mark your calendar, because community members are encouraged to join us at 9:40 in the main gym, for a short, public reading.

Michael J. Grove is a former welder turned English teacher and poet. He received his Bachelor in Science in Education and Master of Science in Education from Wayne State College and Master of Fine Arts in Writing from the University of Nebraska in Omaha. His recently published poems, "Glitter Skips Across a Pond," "Jesus Spotting," and "Adulthood" can be found in *The Flat Water Stirs: An Anthology of Emerging Nebraska Poets*. He currently teaches English at Burke High School in Omaha, NE and is a coach and sponsor for Louder Than a Bomb-Great Plains, a youth slam poetry competition.

This educational opportunity is made possible because grant money from the Geneva Arts Council and the Shickley Community Foundation has been awarded for these purposes. In Shickley, the grant was funded by the Shickley Community Foundation Fund, an affiliate of the Nebraska Community Foundation. Special thanks to the Shickley Community Foundation and the Geneva Arts Council!

Preschool Fun

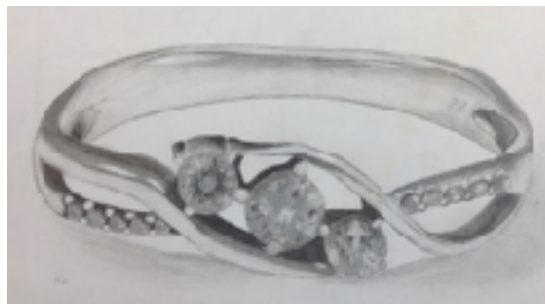
Preschool students worked extremely hard last month during their gingerbread theme! They read multiple books about the gingerbread man and had a visit from Ginger the gingerbread girl in the classroom. Students also had the opportunity to make gingerbread houses, gingerbread cookies, and write a class story of their own. We would like to share that story with you:

Once upon a time there was a Sensei who was very very hungry. So he decided to make Ninjabread Man. Sensei went to the kitchen to make a magical Ninjabread Man. First he shaped the arms. Then he made the body, added some legs, and molded the head. Sensei noticed something was missing. The Ninjabread Man needed ninja gear: a sword, throwing stars, and his black belt. Now he was ready for the oven. While the Ninjabread Man was baking, Sensei went on a bear hunt. When he returned he could smell the Ninjabread Man. Sensei went to the oven, opened the door and the Ninjabread Man jumped out screaming, "HIGH-YAA! I'm the Ninjabread Man!" The Ninjabread Man ran out the door and said, "Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me I'm the Ninjabread Man!" The Ninjabread Man ran and ran until he met a unicorn. The unicorn said, "Stop! I want to eat you!" But the Ninjabread Man kept on running and said, "Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me I'm the Ninjabread Man." The Ninjabread Man ran until he found a stable. Inside was a very hungry horse. The horse saw the Ninjabread Man and said, "Stop! I want to eat you!" But the Ninjabread Man kept on running and said, "Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me I'm the Ninjabread Man." The Ninjabread Man ran super fast into the forest! In the forest there was a cat, hiding in the trees. The cat saw the Ninjabread Man and jumped down! "Stop! I want to eat you!" said the cat. But the Ninjabread Man didn't stop, he kept on running and said, "Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me I'm the Ninjabread Man." The Ninjabread Man ran until he got to a pond. At the pond was a frog. Ninjabread Man stopped. Water was in his way, and he was running out of time. The frog said, "I can help you. Jump across my lily pads!" The Ninjabread Man began to jump across the lily pads, while the Frog decided to sit on the final lily pad, with his mouth WIDE open! The Ninjabread Man, peering over his shoulder, didn't see the frog, for he was looking at the unicorn, the horse, the cat, and the sensei running behind him. The Ninjabread Man jumped on the last lily pad right into the frog's mouth! "Yummmmmmm! Yum!" said the frog. And that was end of the Ninjabread Man.

Written by your Shickley preschool students

Artwork at NASB

Congratulations to Mikenzy Andersen and Brooke Jorgenson for representing Shickley Public School at the NASB (Nebraska Association of School Boards) Conference this fall on November 17th & 18th. Mikenzy's drawing and Brooke's woodburning projects were featured in LaVista, Nebraska, at an exhibit of students' artwork from across the state. Following the ceremony, Brooke's piece was chosen to be purchased by ESU 2.



Science News, by Mr. Elwonger

Science classes last semester were packed with new information for the students, and it was a major learning experience for me as well. I appreciate the patience that the students and their parents have shown as I've taken my first steps into my teaching career. Our classroom has already seen major improvements over the last few months, and more positive changes are coming this semester.

The seventh graders finished last semester talking about cellular processes such as photosynthesis, cellular respiration, and the cell cycle. We tied these lessons back to previous lessons about cell structure and the human body. The eighth graders ended the semester on one of my favorite topics, the geologic time scale and earth's geologic history. There's a lot of information on that timeline to cover, but they all did an incredible job handling all 4.6 billion years of history we talked about (take that, Mr. Shipley!).

The high schoolers learned a lot as well. The freshmen in physical science have been learning about waves, and before break we started focusing more specifically on light waves - or sometimes light particles, as they've recently learned. The sophomores in biology learned about genetics recently, and before break we introduced natural selection and evolution. In chemistry, the juniors have been working with chemical equations and stoichiometry. It started off pretty rough, but we've done a lot of practice and are close to mastering stoichiometry. Anatomy has been focused on the skeletal system over the past few months, wrapping up the unit with a test over the entire skeleton before break.

I hope everyone had a great Christmas break. Get excited for this semester because we've got a lot more science to learn.

How Did That Get in My Lunchbox

During the past few weeks, the kindergarten class has been learning about foods during reading time. We have enjoyed discussing where food comes from. To keep with this theme, Rachel Adam, from the UNL Extension Office in Geneva, visited our classroom to teach us about where different lunch foods might come from. She read us an interesting story called *How Did that Get in My Lunch Box*, by Christine Butterworth. One of the highlights for the students was learning that chocolate starts as a bean in a pod on a tree. The students and Rachel also played a game called *From Farm to Cart*.

The students rolled dice, and each roll determined whether they earned food or tokens for their cart. To the students' dismay, they had to return tokens if there was bad weather, just as a farmer might have lower yields if the weather does not cooperate. Rachel did a great job engaging the students, and everyone truly enjoyed her time in the classroom. We thank Rachel and the Extension Office for offering such great experiences for our students.

Pictured to the right are kindergarten students enjoying playing a game and listening to Rachel Adam while learning about where their food comes from.



I Believe in the Future of Ag Campaign

The Shickley FFA chapter is participating in the I Believe in the Future of Ag campaign for the third year. This campaign serves as an outlet for local FFA chapters to raise money for innovative projects in their classrooms, leadership programming, community service projects, and field trips to advance agriculture education in their schools. One hundred percent of each local donation will be sent back to the designated chapter at the end of the campaign; and the Nebraska FFA Foundation, along with its corporate partners, will provide extra incentives to participating FFA Chapters. This year \$35,000 in matching funds will be distributed to participating chapters. To make a tax deductible donation, grab a donation card from Heartland Bank-Shickley Branch or Miss Witte at school.

One Act Competes at State

The one act cast and crew traveled to Norfolk on December 6th to compete in the state one act competition. They performed in the Johnny Carson Theater and received 4th place. Anthony Beavers was selected as an outstanding actor, which means all three judges nominated him. It was a great experience for all those involved.

Pictured is the one act cast and crew.



Food, Boot, and Coat Drive Being Held

The Shickley FBLA, FFA, and 1st graders held their annual food, boot, and coat drive during the month of December. The items collected were donated to Blue Valley in Geneva. They collected over 50 pounds of food and 75 clothing articles.

Toddler Time, by Ms. Lisa

We have been busy preparing the many of our toddlers for preschool by working on basic shapes, colors, “using our words,” and potty training. Six toddlers will move up to preschool next year. The other toddlers that will remain with me another year are also benefitting from these skills as they are exposed to the same or similar books, songs, and activities. In the picture Madison Mussman is working on her fine motor skills as she squeezes the clothes pins to match the shapes. This is just one of many examples of how our toddlers work on those skills.



Fifth Grade News

This year’s class theme, as chosen by the students, has been Star Wars. This has worked well because at the beginning of the school year, Mr. Schlegel used a quote from one of the movies to encourage students to work hard throughout the year, no matter how hard a task may seem. In the movie, Luke is practicing his Force abilities by moving rocks with Master Yoda when his mode of transportation sinks into a bog. Luke proceeds to say that he will try to get his X-wing out of the water, but it is different than moving rocks with the Force because of the size of the task. This is when Yoda says, “No! Do not try. Do, or do not. There is no try.” We have been using this quote as motivation in doing assignments and projects because all students can DO some form of an assignment to the best of their ability. Then adjustments can be made to help students understand concepts and information better. We are even going so far as to change the way we grade assignments to focus on the process, rather than the answers. After Christmas break we are hoping to completely implement these new grading strategies.

In life science, we have been learning about the classification system that scientists use for plants and animals, as well as the systems and characteristics that help plants and animals survive in their environments, or just survive in general. Math has been a lot of algebraic expressions and equations as we prepare for interpreting and creating graphs. Then, our big unit over fractions will begin after Christmas as well. Also after Christmas break, we will begin learning about speeches and start writing our first informative speeches for the school-wide competition. We are excited for and dreading the speeches right now because we have been practicing writing research essays about important landmarks and monuments. Overall, it has been a good start, and we are looking forward to finishing stronger in the second semester.

Letter from Mr. Ippensen, Principal

Is it the goal or the journey which is most important? I personally am very goal- and mission-driven; others are very journey- or experience-driven- to them, it doesn't matter so much that you get where you are going, but that you learn as much from the process as you can. To me, you do and learn what you need to along the way in order to reach your goal. It is an interesting juxtaposition and an interesting question for us to ponder.

Are we here to teach our students to enter specific careers, focusing on the outcomes of the educational process, or are we here to prepare them for uncertain futures, focusing on the skills needed to be successful in a variety of careers? The answer is not simple; the answer is both.

The words of Chet Richards, from *Certain to Win*, again ring true: since we can't know exactly what the future holds, we need to find the general patterns, the "common elements," we are sure will apply. As we prepare our students for success, and the pursuit of success, we need to ensure we are teaching them and helping them to develop those common elements they will need in their journey. Our young people must be prepared for success, so when they face challenges in their lives, they are ready to overcome them, either through the skills and abilities they have, or by determining what the skills and abilities they need are and developing them on their own. We must remember, whether the role we each play in our students' lives is as a teacher, parent, or mentor, we are each responsible for them, for helping them grow, and for preparing them for success.

As always, if you have any questions or comments regarding the work we are doing at Shickley Public School, or if you would like to share in the process of preparing our students for success, please don't hesitate to stop in and talk, or give us a call.

Derek Ippensen, Ed.S.
PK-12 Principal
Shickley Public School

