LDNE BECOMES A PARTNER IN P2T JPA

The LDNE School Board voted unanimously at the January 2017 board meeting to join the “Pathways 2 Tomorrow” (P2T) Joint Public Agency (JPA) partnership of 5 other area schools and ESU#2 in Fremont. Schools involved include: Bancroft-Rosalie, Lyons-Decatur Northeast, Oakland-Craig, Pender, West Point-Beemer and Wisner-Pilger.

ESU 2, in partnership with these 6 rural school districts, plans to collaboratively address Career and Technical Education (CTE) needs through the “Pathways 2 Tomorrow” Joint Public Agency Agreement. In the February 2017 board meeting, the Lyons-Decatur Northeast board plans to vote to create this agreement and appoint one board member onto the P2T Board. This P2T board will have taxing authority up to a 1 cent to levy taxes upon this entire region of school districts. (The initial agreement had the levy limit set at 2 cents.)

The Joint Public Agency agreement states that the P2T Board will meet to set the tax request (budget) on or before August 1st of each year. This tax request must then be presented to each of the 6 school districts no later than August 1st.

The P2T idea began in 2015-16 with 10 schools involved with exploration of community needs and possible programs. In 2016-17, P2T received funding from a Leadership Grant ($150,000) and a PFI Grant ($80,000) from the Nebraska Department of Education. This $230,000 funded part of the program coordinator, part of the digital learning coordinator and a career education consultant.

In the 2017-18 school year, P2T plans to continue to offer the Computer Science pathway and plans are being made to offer a Health Science pathway. P2T may also attempt to offer an Education pathway in 2017-18. Possible future pathways include: welding, agriculture, and transportation.

Mary Janata, P2T Career Director, and Diane Wolfe, ESU2 Special Projects Director, spoke to the Lyons-Decatur Northeast Board at their January 13, 2017 school board meeting about the P2T project. They explained that P2T is more than just offering classes (pathways) to area Juniors and Seniors. They provided a flyer entitled, “JPA – Where will the money go?” (See flyer included in this newsletter) They explained that Mary Janata, retired counselor from the West Point-Beemer School District, will meet with school district counselors to assist them in providing employability skills starting as early as grade 7 through high school using a curriculum that prepares students for career readiness. Eventually all high school students will develop a “personal learning plan” (PLP) that is required by NDE in their six AQuESTT Tenets. (These Tenets are included in this newsletter)

Grant writing will still be a key component for P2T funding. Tax dollars will sustain the program but grant dollars will help offset the need for tax dollars. Diane Wolfe told the School Board that ESU 2 staff will continue to write grants to help offset the need for tax dollars to fund P2T.

This JPA will be in effect for a three-year period starting in the 2017-18 school year. It is the belief of P2T that coordinated student internships and job shadow experiences along with developed and delivered on-line curriculum courses for each career academy are a must. Neither of these beliefs are a higher priority than the P2T belief that for CTE to remain viable, rural communities must work together to maximize limited resources.

By Fred Hansen, Superintendent
SPEECH

By Melissa Brokaw

The speech season has started again! Mrs. Seagren and I are glad to welcome new members to our team. Freshmen: Kisha Kraft, Sophomore: Reid Preston, and Junior: Shelby Laird. We are also glad to have returning members including: Cassidy Mentink, Brock Vetick, Layne Miller, and Amelia Schlichting.

The team competed at the North Bend Invitational on Saturday, January 21st. The following team members placed: Shelby Laird 6th in JV poetry, Layne Miller 6th in JV informative, and Brock Vetick 2nd in extemporaneous.

The team will be competing in the following meets: Logan View on Jan. 28th, GACC on Feb. 4th, Howells/Dodge on Feb. 8th, Wisner- Pilger on Feb. 18th, EHC at West Point on Feb. 25th, and the LDNE triangular on March 7th. Districts will be on March 16th at Humphrey. The team hopes to compete at state on March 24th. All meets start at 8 AM, except for conference which starts at 9 AM.

As always we love to see familiar faces in the crowds at these meets. Hope to see you there!

**East Husker Conference Art Show and Speech Meet** The conference art show and speech meet will be held February 25, 2017 at West Point School.

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**Burt County Spelling Bee:**

Lyons-Decatur is hosting the Burt County Spelling Contest on Tuesday, February 7th beginning at 9:00 a.m. Contestants in grades 5-8 from all Burt County Schools will be participating. Spectators are welcome.
From Mr. Lahm’s Pen

Some of you may remember the movie Groundhog Day where the same day was replayed over and over again to the point that the main character knew exactly where to be and at precisely the right time because he had been part of the same day for so long.

It is easy to get into a rut especially in the cold, snowy, and icy months of January and February. It is even easier to become depressed (seasonal depression) to the point where we want to isolate ourselves from one another and even our own families. I am no different from you, and know that what you are experiencing is not uncommon.

Let’s make it a point during this time of year to invest in relationships with people and especially our own families. Take time with your kids to really get to know them. Put down the devices and those things that isolate us from each other, and spend time playing board games or having a dance party or building a fort and reading/telling stories.

At our Empower Your Genius time last week, Mrs. Wakeley and our staff offered our students the opportunity to acquire new skills and learn new games as students participated in several mini-courses teaching them everything from new games, to dancing, to sewing on a button, tie-dye, sign language, crocheting, to so many other fun activities that just challenged us to have personal relationships rather than through technology.

We hope that you are really able to connect with your loved ones especially your kids and families during this time. When we engage in relationships, life finds meaning and purpose.

P.S. – Empower Your Genius in February will have us hosting a career fair on February 15 that all students PK-12th grade will be participating. We are looking forward to another chance to see the awesome things going on in our communities. If you have a small business that would like to participate, please contact the school at 402-687-2363.

By Derek Lahm, Principal

Coming Assessments

MAP and NeSA testing

In the next couple months, our students will be taking some very important assessments in the Measurement of Academic Progress (MAP) test as well as the Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) assessment. The MAP assessment tracks academic progress in terms of growth of individual students through their academic careers. This assessment offers valuable insight to teachers in regards to student’s strengths and weaknesses in particular subject areas. We have even been able to have valuable goal-setting conversations with individual students regarding their MAP scores. We will be taking these assessments Feb. 1-Feb. 8 (elementary) and Feb. 7-15 (secondary).

The NeSA assessment measures our students knowledge of the Nebraska state standards in the particular subject areas. NeSA assessments have high stakes attached to them not only for your individual student(s) but also for our school. The reading, math, and science (RMS) tests will take place toward the middle and end of April. There will be much more to come regarding these assessments. We never want to base our entire school efforts on assessments, as there is so much more than just book knowledge that is learned at school. However, we also recognize the importance of assessing ourselves to improve our product for our students.
News from the Guidance Office:
Financial Aid Forms: The Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) forms are available on-line at fafsa.gov. Help is available by calling Ed Quest Foundation at 888-357-6300.

ACT: ACT test is Feb. 11th
ACT test April 8th and the deadline for registration is March 3rd.

Scholarship Information: As scholarship information arrives, it is posted in the Guidance Office. Seniors need to be proactive in searching for financial aid. The list of local scholarship is posted on the Guidance Office’s Naviance web site www.succeed.naviance.com. Contact John Bellar at 402-687-2363 if you need more information.

An ACT Message to 11th Grade Parents/Guardians

By Katie Mace, English

This particular year, as you may have heard, the state of Nebraska is no longer asking every 11th grader to take the NESA writing or NESA Reading, Math, Science tests. Instead, they are asking every 11th grader to take the ACT whether they plan to attend college or not. This is a free chance for your son/daughter to receive an ACT score. The approach to taking the ACT is much different than preparing for the NESA. Therefore, English 11 has been starting early!

Last semester, English 11 began John Baylor Test Prep. We have offered this every year in the past, but not until spring. I am hoping that starting earlier will give more time for the junior class to prepare. In addition, we are taking practice tests and making flash cards of grammar rules to help raise scores. Lastly, since every 11th grader will have a writing portion, we have just begun how to write a strong scholarship essay. As scholarships begin to be introduced to your son/daughter, know they have the tools to write a great response. Great and memorable essays = $$$!!

What can you do to help your child prepare for the ACT? It is overwhelming to think about. What about ordering some ACT Prep texts from Amazon.com? Such as *Cracking the ACT* by Princeton. It comes with 6 practice tests and more tools to help answer difficult questions correctly and quickly! Going to Sioux City or Omaha? Take a stroll through Barnes and Nobles to see what type of tools they offer for practice. Last, what about asking some seniors or past students who are currently in college? Ask them how they prepared and how many times they had to take it before getting the score they needed for admission or scholarships. I know my nephew took the ACT 4-5 times to be accepted into UNL’s Engineering Program.

After April, the next time the ACT is offered is in June. If you have the funding, sign your kid up! In June, there is no school homework to stress over. They may be more relaxed and get a better score. They can continue to take it in the fall as well. Colleges will only get the highest score and never see the lower ones.

2016-17 Yearbook is on sale!
Yearbooks will go on sale from February 1st to April 1st. The cover is being designed by the Graphic Design Class with the theme; “Your Edventure Begins Here”. The yearbook staff is excited about the 100 page all color book that we will have. All Students preschool through 12th are included in the book with lots and lots of pictures and information. The books will cost $40.00 and you may pay Mrs. Sharp or the office.

Shortened Schedules Transportation
10:00 O’Clock Late Start Bus Schedule
9:20 A.M. Decatur Departure Time
3:50 P.M. Lyons Departure Time

2:00 O’Clock Dismissal Bus Schedule
7:35 A.M. Decatur Departure Time
2:10 P.M. Lyons Departure Time
**Kindergarten Child Find**

We are currently compiling a list for next year’s Kindergarten class and we want to make sure we include everyone. If you are new to the district or your child did not attend pre school, please call the school so we can put your child’s name on our kindergarten list. We are looking for children who are 5 years old before July 31st, 2017. If you have a child in that age group and you are not going to send them to school next year, please let the school know also.

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**Mid-Term Reports:**

Mid-Term reports in grades 7-12 will be available at parent-teacher conferences on Thursday, February 9th. The next mid-term report will be April 14th.

**Parent-Teacher Conference:**

Parent – Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2017 from 3:00-8:00 p.m. School will dismiss at 2:00 p.m. on that day. There is no school on Friday, February 10th for teacher in-service.

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**Title 1 Parents Meeting:**

Lyons-Decatur Northeast School is a school wide Title I program. This means that all K-6 students can be served by Title I. All elementary parents are invited to attend our annual Title I meeting. The meeting will allow time for parents to ask questions about the Title I program and provide input on possible changes for future services. The meeting will be held on Thursday, February 9th in the Title 1 Room 308 at 6:30 p.m., during our Second Semester Parent - Teacher Conferences.

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**Pre-School Registration**

Pre-School Registration will be Friday, April 7th at 2:30 pm. Please call the school if you have a child who is or will be 3 or 4 years old on or before July 31st, 2017, and did not attend pre-school the previous year at LDNE. Please bring your child’s birth certificate and a record of your child’s shots with you on April 8th.

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**Annual Report Card**

The Annual Report Card for the school district is available for viewing. It is located on our school web site: [www.lyonsdecatursschool.org](http://www.lyonsdecatursschool.org) under District Newsletter. A paper copy of the report is available for pick up at the Superintendent’s Office. If you would like the report emailed or mailed to you, please call the Superintendents Office at 402-687-2363. This report provides patrons of the district with information on school district demographics, financial data, state standards assessment and ACT scores, transportation, facilities, goals, curriculum, enrollment, and faculty size.

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The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to LDNE!

Reading for pleasure unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Here’s what you can do to help children develop stronger reading skills and a love for reading:

• Set the example. Let children see you read.
• Have a collection of books in your home. Update this collection routinely to keep pace with changing tastes and reading skills.
• Support our school’s Book Fair. Allow your children to choose their own books to read.

Our Scholastic Book Fair is a reading event that brings the books kids want to read right into our school. It’s a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level. Please make plans to visit our Book Fair and be involved in shaping your child’s reading habits.

Book Fair date: Monday, February 27, 2017
Shopping hours: 5:30-7:30 pm

If you are unable to attend the Fair in person, we invite you to visit our online Book Fair at www.scholastic.com/bf/lrde. Our Online Fair is available from February 19th to March 11th.

We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair! Remember, all purchases benefit our school.

Northeast Music Department News

Honor Ensembles
The LDNE Music Department is proud to recognize the following students for their success in being nominated for the following Honor Ensembles:
Wayne State Honor Band (January 28)
Layne Miller*
UNO BOCH Festival (January 29)
Benny Estrada* (Symphonic Band)
Shelby Laird (Choir)
East Husker Conference Honor Bands (February 6)
Jacob Whitaker, Amelia Schlichting, Reid Preston*, Benny Estrada
*denotes principal or first chair
Congratulations to all of these students! The LDNE music department is also excited to recognize students accepted for both Class D Honor Band and Blair Honor Band, and will do so once those rosters are posted!

Upcoming Performances
Chili Supper - Monday, March 6 6:30 PM
The Chili Supper is our largest fundraiser of the year! Come join us for a night of music from the bands, choirs, and student soloists. Admission to the concert is free - but a $5 ticket will get a drink, chili, and a dessert. Meal tickets will be available in advance from students or $6 at the door.
District Music Contest - Friday, April 21
The 7-12 Band and High School Choir will both be performing at the District Music Contest in Yutan, NE. Several students will also be performing in small groups or as soloists.
Elementary Music Concert - Thursday, April 27 7:00 PM
The Elementary Music Concert will feature performances from the Fifth and Sixth Grade bands - it is their final performance of the year!
Spring Concert - Tuesday, May 2 7:00 PM
Our final concert of the year! Performances will include the 7-12 Band, the High School and Junior High Choir.
What You Need to Know About Norovirus

Norovirus causes many people to become ill with vomiting and diarrhea each year. You can help protect yourself and others by washing your hands often and following simple tips to stay healthy. Stay home when you are sick. 24 hours after an event of vomiting or fever should be spent at home as you are most contagious when you are sick and during the first few days after you recover from norovirus illness.

Norovirus is a highly contagious virus that anyone can get infected with and get sick. Also, you can get norovirus illness many times in your life. One reason for this is that there are many different types of noroviruses.

Norovirus causes inflammation of the stomach or intestines or both. This is called acute gastroenteritis. A person usually develops symptoms 12 to 48 hours after being exposed to norovirus. Most people with norovirus illness get better within 1 to 3 days.

If you have norovirus illness, you can feel extremely ill and throw up or have diarrhea many times a day. This can lead to dehydration, especially in young children, older adults, and people with other illnesses. Symptoms can include fever, headache, and body aches.

People with norovirus illness are contagious from the moment they begin feeling sick and for the first few days after they recover. Some people may be contagious for even longer. There is no vaccine to prevent norovirus infection or drug to treat sick people. Learn how to protect yourself and others by following a few simple steps.

Practice proper hand hygiene
Wash your hands carefully with soap and water, especially after using the toilet and changing diapers and always before eating or preparing food. If soap and water aren’t available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. These alcohol-based products can help reduce the number of germs on your hands, but they are not a substitute for washing with soap and water.

Take care in the kitchen
Carefully rinse fruits and vegetables, and cook oysters and other shellfish thoroughly before eating.

Do not prepare food while infected
People with norovirus illness should not prepare food for others while they have symptoms and for at least 2 days after they recover from their illness.

Clean and disinfect contaminated surfaces
After throwing up or having diarrhea, immediately clean and disinfect contaminated surfaces using a bleach-based household cleaner as directed on the product label. If no such cleaning product is available, you can use a solution made with 5 tablespoons to 1.5 cups of household bleach per 1 gallon of water.

Wash laundry thoroughly
Immediately remove and wash clothing or linens that may be contaminated with vomit or stool. Handle soiled items carefully—try not to shake them —to avoid spreading virus. If available, wear rubber or disposable gloves while handling soiled clothing or linens and wash your hands after handling. Wash soiled items with detergent at the maximum available cycle length and then machine dry.

This information was provided by the Center for Disease Control.

All visitors and parents must enter the school building through the west entrance door at all times.
P2T is a collaboration between school districts. This program has been developed to support the career needs of ALL students. At the heart of this program is the development and support of students, beginning in grade seven, to extensively explore and develop awareness of the skills and education they will need to be successful in the world of work.

To accomplish this, P2T staff has worked tirelessly to develop tangible supports which align to the newly adopted NDE Strategic Plan.

**Support and implementation of CAREER EXPLORATION**

- **Engage**: Junior high career exploration program.
- **Nebraska Career Connections**: Online platform that assesses career interests and finds students strengths.
- **Naviance**: Comprehensive program that provides career exploration, college research, access to local and national scholarships, and the development of personal learning plans (PLPs).
- Nebraska State Board of Education / Nebraska Department of Education strategic goal 5.3: *By 2026, 100% of Nebraska schools will provide all students with a program for career awareness, exploration, and preparation.*

**Development of PERSONAL LEARNING PLANS**

- Naviance
- Nebraska Career Connections:
- Nebraska State Board of Education / Nebraska Department of Education strategic goal 2.3: *By 2026, 100% of Nebraska schools will have all students in grades 7-12 create and utilize a personal learning plan.*

**Cultivation of EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS**

- **Habitudes**: Habits and attitudes that prepare students for career readiness.
- **Job Shadowing**: Following experienced workers to gain insight into a career field.
- **Internships**: On the job learning experience that reinforces classroom instruction.
Creation of CAREER PATHWAYS

- All pathways are being developed with three possible outcomes
  - School to work
  - School to certification and/or associates degree
  - School to four-year degree
- Identification of courses needed to support immediate employability.
- Identification of courses that transfer to a program of study, associates and/or 4-year programs (selected courses that were required in multiple programs of study at both NECC and WSC).
- Negotiation of course offerings and staffing with post-secondary partner.

Sustainability Funding:

- Necessary Budget $442,500
- Approximately $0.01 thru the JPA of consortium schools

Equipment and Supplies for Planned P2T Programming

- Computer Science (Computers, external monitors, networking equipment, servers, cabling, switches) - **Computer Science Pathway**
- Health Science (Depending on partner involvement we may need: hospital beds, dummies, medical equipment) - **Health Science Pathway**
- Transportation (i.e. Truck simulator, aviation simulator) - **Future Pathway**
- Skilled Trades (Depending on partner involvement we may need: welders, ventilation, power tools, etc.) - **Future Pathway**

P2T Responsibilities

- Personnel to include: P2T Director, P2T Career Counselor, Digital Learning Coordinator, P2T Instructors.
- Meeting with school personnel to develop Engage and Habitudes programs.
- Modeling and leading Naviance implementation in partnership with School Counselors.
- Digital resource support assisting schools in Naviance technical setup.
- Working with individual teachers to develop online resources for classroom instruction.
- Project director meeting with business and industry leaders to pave the way for job shadows and internships.
- Seeking financial opportunities (i.e. grant writing) for future endeavors.
- Mapping career pathways.
- Negotiating with post-secondary institutions for career pathways, staffing, and use of equipment.
- Securing equipment and supplies for current and future pathways.
- Negotiating contracts with vendors to secure discount pricing for group orders.

*Ask not what we can do for you;*
*Ask what we can accomplish together.*
The Six Tenets of AQuESTT

**STUDENT SUCCESS AND ACCESS**

**Positive Partnerships, Relationships & Student Success**
The State Board believes that student engagement through positive partnerships and relationships is fundamental to successful schools and districts. The State Board seeks to support schools and districts to implement best practices in student, family, and community engagement to enhance educational experiences and opportunities.

*Areas of Focus*
- Individualized or Personalized Learning Plans
- Attendance and Graduation
- Family Engagement
- Community and Support Services

**Transitions**
The State Board believes that quality educational opportunities focus on supports for students transitioning between grade levels, programs, schools, districts, and ultimately college and careers.

*Areas of Focus*
- Early Childhood Elementary
- Elementary-Middle School
- Middle School-High School
- High School-Post High School

**Educational Opportunities and Access**
The State Board believes that all students should have access to comprehensive instructional opportunities to be prepared for postsecondary education and career goals.

*Areas of Focus*
- Early Childhood Education
- Comprehensive Learning Opportunities
- Expanded Learning Opportunities
- Blended Learning Opportunities

**TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**College & Career Ready**
The State Board of Education believes that every student upon completion of secondary education shall be prepared for postsecondary educational opportunities and to pursue his or her career goals.

*Areas of Focus*
- Rigorous College & Career Ready Standards for All Content Areas
- Technological & Digital Readiness
- Support for Career Awareness and Career/College Goals

**Assessment**
The State Board believes the results of multiple assessment sources (national, state, and classroom-based) should be used to measure student achievement of college and career ready standards, and be used as an integral part of the instructional process.

*Areas of Focus*
- Individualized/Adaptive Assessments
- Classroom Based Assessments
- State Assessments
- National/International Assessments

**Educator Effectiveness**
The State Board believes that students should be surrounded by effective educators throughout their learning experiences such that schools and districts develop effective teachers and leaders who establish a culture of success.

*Areas of Focus*
- Nebraska Teacher & Principal Performance Framework
- Professional Development
- Building Leadership Supports
- Effective Local Policy Makers & Superintendents