UPCOMING EVENTS:
Dec. 11—Read to Succeed 4:00-5:00
Dec. 11—Basketball game @ Boyd 4:30
Dec. 13—Skinner Robotics Tournament 8:00 a.m.
Dec. 16—Math Club 4:00-5:00
Dec. 16—Boys Basketball tryouts 4:00-5:00
Dec. 17—Robotics 4:00-6:00
Dec. 17—Tutoring 4:00-5:00
Dec. 18—Read to Succeed 4:00-5:00
Dec. 19—2nd Quarter ends
Dec. 22—Jan. 5 WINTER BREAK
Jan. 6—Students return to school
Jan. 6—Math Club 4:00-5:00
Jan. 7—Robotics 4:00-6:00
Jan. 7—Tutoring 4:00-5:00
Jan. 7—Basketball practice 4:00-5:00
Jan. 8—Kindergarten Round-up 6:00

CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT:

MRS. HOLLENDIECK, 6th GRADE, PO1

Seasons Greetings from sixth grade! It has been a great start to the year as our sixth graders have made the leap into the new Science and Math curriculum. The students were apprehensive about writing in their new consumable books, but adapted quickly. The new curriculum has even made the textbooks accessible through the Think Central website: www-k6.thinkcentral.com. (Note: There is a “dash” after www instead of a “dot”.) Modern technology has certainly reduced the stress for students that have forgotten their homework at school.

In addition to the new Science and Math curriculum, we are working on Ancient Egypt in Social Studies. The students have really enjoyed discovering the disparities between men and women, and ethnic races in Ancient times, compared to today. These discussions have revealed a quest for equality for all. Our revelations will lead us into great conversations during Black History Month, in January.

In conclusion, we continue to work towards our reading goals this year. To encourage reading, the sixth graders will be selecting books from Scholastic to present to their class. They will do mystery box presentations with artifacts from their novel, while telling some details about the story... of course, keeping us on the edge of our seats. So, don’t be surprised if your student comes home begging to read a new book!

Dear Parents,

Our Kindergarten Roundup for the 2015-2016 school year will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2015 6:00 p.m. If you have a child or know of a child that will turn age 5 on or before August 1, 2015, please call the office at 402-572-8928.
NOTE FROM THE NURSE!

Healthy Holidays!

With the upcoming holidays, and winter break, take time to consider some safety and health tips so you can enjoy this time of year.

Prevent illness: Try to maintain a regular schedule with adequate sleep. While this may not always be possible, the closer you can stay to a regular bedtime and awakening time – with a full night’s sleep, the better you will feel, and the stronger your immune system will be. Try to stay away from those who are ill. Cover coughs and sneezes, and WASH YOUR HANDS often.

Think food safety: Bacteria are often present in raw foods, so be sure to wash fresh fruits and vegetables, and thoroughly cook meats and poultry. Don’t forget to put away the leftovers. Foods that require refrigeration should not be left out at room temperature for more than two hours. Extra people around can be distracting, and little ones may grab something they shouldn’t. Keep hot items away from the reach of little ones, and make sure all foods and drinks that are within their reach are safe.

Maintain child safety: The homes you visit may not be childproofed, or visitors to your home may not be used to thinking child-safety. Watch out for button batteries (like hearing aid, watch, greeting card, and game batteries), small magnets, tags, strings, small toys or toy parts, and any other small items that you would normally keep out of a child’s environment. These can be choking and/or intestinal hazards. Consider that visiting adults may keep their medications or other items in a purse, suitcase, or on a bedside stand that can be accessed easily by a curious child. Some plants and flowers can cause problems, if eaten. Try getting down on the floor and crawl around, looking up and around for dangers a child might see. KEEP THE POISON CONTROL PHONE NUMBER POSTED: 1-800-222-1222 for consultation before attempting any emergency treatment.

Think seasonal safety: Decorations, lights, electrical cords, candles, fireplaces, and trees can be festive, but all have the potential to be dangerous. Follow suggested guidelines and be on the look-out for potential problems. Be sure all lights are turned off before going to bed. Make sure candles are placed safely away from anything that could catch fire, and don’t leave a room that has a candle burning. Remove all decorations, paper and other combustible items from around fireplaces before lighting a fire, and don’t burn gift wrap in the fireplace, as it can cause a flash fire. Check for fire-safe conditions before going to sleep.

Take care of YOU: Maintain your routines as much as possible, while breaking down the extra tasks into smaller parts that can be done a little at a time. There may be a lot to do, but doing one thing at a time with complete focus can help to prevent stress and accidents. Try to find ways to make preparations fun – and include others. Try to limit your spending and activities. Less can be more. Take time to reflect on your blessings. Enjoy! Meaningful times together can create memories that are priceless.

PTA HOLIDAY WORKSHOP!

Stop by the Holiday Workshop Friday, December 12th from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. located next to the auditorium doors. Come help support the PTA, we will have crafts and trinkets for sale from .25 CENTS to $1.00.

Thank you for supporting Boyd School & PTA! HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
SCHOOL CHOICE FOR THE 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR

The Student Assignment Plan for the 2015-16 school year supports the direction of the Douglas-Sarpy County Learning Community as well as the priorities of the OPS Board of Education—every school should reflect the socioeconomic diversity of our greater community.

Under the Student Assignment Plan:
Elementary students may attend the Home Attendance Area (neighborhood) school assigned by residential address. To find your HAA or neighborhood school go to www.ops.org/Schools/Find My School. Current OPS students now in grades KG—5 may continue to attend their current schools (with limited exceptions). Families may apply for their child to attend any OPS school. Approval of a request depends on the availability of space at the student’s grade level in the school and these priorities:

- The first priority for approval is for a student whose sibling now attends and will continue to attend the requested school. Approval requires available space in the student’s grade level at the school and is not guaranteed.
- The next priority will be given to a student whose socioeconomic background will enhance the diversity of the requested school.
- A student who will not enhance the socioeconomic diversity of a school may be approved if space is available.

Parents of Kindergarten-eligible children who now attend Pre-K or Head Start programs that are not located in their child’s neighborhood school may apply for the child to attend the same school or another non-neighborhood school. Approval is based on the stipulations shown above and is not guaranteed.

Transportation:
Transportation provisions included in the Student Assignment Plan are designed to support the goal of increasing socioeconomic diversity in every school and to assist families whose children attend the neighborhood elementary school but live more than 1.5 miles from the school.

SCHOOL CHOICE APPLICATIONS will be distributed at school in January, 2015 to all incoming KG children now enrolled in Head Start or PK and to children in the last grade level of their school (GR 4, 5, or 6). Families of children now in other grades (KG—5) will receive a postcard by mail in December. Those wishing to participate in School Choice may return the postcard by December 12 to receive a School Choice Application in January. Generic School Choice Applications also will be available at every school and in the Student Placement office at TAC during the month of January.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL RECRUITMENT LETTERS will be mailed in December to families of students currently in the last grade level of their elementary school. The letter includes information about middle schools and their respective Open House dates. Children may attend the neighborhood middle school or parents may apply for their child to attend a middle school through School Choice. Approval of requests occurs as described for elementary schools.

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UPS will be held in January, 2015. Please attend Round-Up at your home attendance area school based on your residential address. School Choice Applications will be available at Round-Up and throughout the month of January for families who wish to request a non-neighborhood school(s). Round-Up dates will be publicized or check the date with your neighborhood school.

SCHOOL SELECTION occurs by lottery. Results are mailed to parents by April 1, 2015.

If you have questions about the Omaha Public Schools Student Assignment Plan or School Choice, please contact the Student Placement Office at 557-2710.