

BOND ELECTION RESULTS

DR. BETH JOHNSEN, SUPERINTENDENT

The Conestoga Building Project Bond Issue failed on the May 12, 2020 Election Ballot. The final votes were 640 AGAINST the Bond and 627 FOR the Bond. The Bond failed by 13 votes. The Cass County Election office reported that there were record turnouts for the primary with 37.1% for the final count. The Building Project Committee has reconvened and reviewed the information available from the election results. Parent groups have contacted the committee and are working to develop a survey that will collect information about the voting. Patrons of Conestoga will be receiving the survey in the mail. Directions will be provided within the mailing.

STUDENT SERVICES

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES, MRS. WRIGHT

As the school year ends and families begin summer break, the stress of not being able to participate in typical activities may contribute to additional pressure on parents and children alike. Check out these QR codes for ideas and activities that families can engage in this summer while keeping everyone safe and healthy. Enjoy your summer!



Omaha STEM



UNMC Activities



NE Wildlife

LOOKING FORWARD: PLANNING FOR 2020-2021

JR./SR. INSTRUCTIONAL COACH, MS. LEWIS

That's a wrap for year number one as the high school instructional coach. It has been an honor to work with the staff and students at Conestoga. The passion and excitement that education can bring into our youth is an honor to observe. With student centered thoughts in mind, we look forward to building off of our professional development from this year into next year. No matter what school looks like next year, we have many visions in mind for teacher growth and opportunity. As 2020–2021 begins we hope to refocus on our Marzano instructional practices, follow and update our essential standards, and continue to implement new technology and Google applications. Professional development planning has begun for implementing classroom best practices and technology into each professional development day. At the Jr./Sr. High school, we can look forward to implementing new iPads in the fall, Marzano elements throughout the year, and a streamline plan to coordinate all professional development days together. With the opportunity to work together our PLCs (Professional Learning Communities) are growing and vamping up student offerings in each classroom and content area.

NEWS FROM THE NEBRASKA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

COMPILED FROM INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE NU SYSTEM 7-12 COUNSELOR, MRS. KREIFELS

University of Nebraska President Ted Carter announced earlier this month that tuition rates across the NU system will be frozen in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years, another step to ensure affordability and predictability for students and families as they plan for the future.

With the freeze, all NU campuses will remain among the best values in their peer groups - a critical commitment to Nebraskans at a time when higher education is increasingly linked to individual growth and economic prosperity, according to Carter. "This tuition freeze is going to directly benefit students and their families, a much-needed light of better days to come in this time of unprecedented challenges."

Carter also launched the Nebraska Promise, an expansion of the NU system's existing need-based financial aid program that will cover full tuition costs for Nebraska students with family incomes of \$60,000 or less. The Nebraska Promise is expected to cover an additional 1,000 current and future students.

The Nebraska Promise program covers undergraduate tuition at the University of Nebraska's four campuses (UNK, UNL, UNMC and UNO) and its two-year technical college (NCTA). Tuition is covered for students who meet academic qualifications and have a family income of \$60,000 or less (Adjusted Gross Income/AGI) or are Pell Grant-eligible. We want to make sure that any Nebraskan who wants to get a college education can. The University system didn't want cost to get in the way of getting a degree. With COVID-19 throwing many lives into disarray, some high school students may feel that college is not within their reach right now.

"These are challenging times, but as I have quickly come to learn, Nebraskans are problem-solvers, not problem-gazers," Carter said.
"We have an opportunity now to lean in to our priorities – the first of which is affordable excellence for the people of Nebraska – so
that we emerge even stronger, even more relevant, and even more ready to meet the needs of our state and the world."

For more detailed information check out the following links:

https://nebraska.edu/news-and-events/news/2020/05/president-ted-carter-announces-two-year-university-of-nebraska-tuition-freeze https://nebraska.edu/nebraska-promise

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

If your child will be riding a bus in the 2020-2021 school year, please fill out a registration form and submit it no later than August 1, 2020.

ALL STUDENTS WHO NEED TRANSPORTATION MUST REGISTER, EVEN IF YOU REGISTERED LAST SCHOOL YEAR.

Busing information and the registration form can be found on the school website: conestogacougars.org. Click on the "About Us" tab and go to parent information. Transportation information is on pages 16 and 17. Print out the form and mail it to:

Midstates School Bus, Inc

P.O. Box 164 Murray, NE 68409



A NOTE FROM THE JR./SR. HIGH PRINCIPAL MR. ROB GEISE

The 2019-2020 school year is officially over. I couldn't be prouder of the students and staff on how they approached the year, embraced change, persevered through adversity and worked to get better every day. Decisions were student centered and both students and staff grew tremendously throughout the year. Instructionally, the teachers attended conferences, attended morning PLC's and collaborated as a group to improve technology skills as well as instruction. Their work in these areas will create huge benefits for our students in the classroom. In addition, we implemented ICU, Lunch Bunch and created well defined ACT Prep sessions to benefit our students. Our newly developed SkillsUSA program is established and ready to make a huge jump next year. The program received a \$1000 grant to help their efforts. This was awarded by the state chapter to help new programs. Moving forward, we're excited to watch this program grow and we're excited to expand opportunities that cater to all interests our students might have. We ended the year dealing with the Covid 19 Pandemic. It was definitely a challenge. As a district, we were proud of the work put forth by our teachers as well as the engagement by our students. The students worked hard, managed the daily rigor of their classes and participated through Zoom to collaborate with their teachers and classmates. The teachers provided flipped classrooms, on-line labs / lessons and utilized Google Classroom to the fullest. Even though this was a massive challenge, our teachers will be better in the long run for finding new, creative ways to teach. Because of the great things occurring every day, we were very prepared to tackle this situation head-on and not have to react to every situation. To say it was a year to remember is an understatement, but the steps the staff and students made to better the school will be what I remember most. Conestoga Jr/Sr High School is on the rise, and the sky is the limit!

TECHNOLOGY AT CONESTOGA MR. ANDY MYRTUE



Hello to all of you! I am Andy Myrtue, Conestoga's Technology Director for the past 18 years. Before that I taught Industrial Technology and coached for 23 years here. I have seen everything from no computers anywhere in school to where we are today; 1,078 computers and iPads to aid in the instruction of students and the running of our Conestoga School District. We started with Apple computers then Windows 3.1 and have been updating ever since. In 2013, the school board voted to purchase 240 iPads to start a 1-2-1 program for the 9th-12th grade students. 1-2-1 means one device for every student. We have been adding to that number and we are now 1-2-1 in grades 3-12. 9-12 have MacBook Air computers, 3-8 have iPads, and the K-2 grades have carts of 25 iPads for each grade level. Last year we purchased 120 Chromebooks for use in our elementary school for the various classes and testing. We also bought 110 MacBook Airs for our 10th and 11th grade students to replace their old iPads. For the 20-21 school year, we are purchasing 215 - 7th generation iPads with a combo case and keyboard for the 5th thru 8th grade students. This technology has aided in our presenting information in the various subjects taught at Conestoga. Our new K-12 math program for the 20-21 school year is digital meaning the students access their books on their devices. We use the Adobe Products, Microsoft Office, Google Classroom and many apps from the Apple App Store in our classes. Not all grade levels take their devices home but for those that do, we are required to be CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act) compliant. This means that any device that goes home is filtered through the school's server so the students access safe internet sites.

Every classroom has a Promethean whiteboard which allows the teachers and students to interact with instructional tools, instructional materials and audio-visual tools to create more interest and motivation. Seven more of these panels have just been ordered to replace outdated boards in both buildings. Apple TV's are also in all classrooms and used as a quick way to connect to the promethean boards and also show internet content for the subject matter.

At the 7-12 building we have 20 iMacs used in our Media classes taught by Mr. Trampe. Mr. Brokaw's Business Lab has 18 Window computers. The library has 39 Window computers for the students to use.

With the Corona-Virus school shut down, we have been fortunate to have the devices for students to use in our e-Learning program while the students were at home. This summer's new purchases will assure that the students at Conestoga will have up to date devices to aid in their learning, whether that is at school or at home.

PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY PROJECTS AND SPECIAL SCIENCE AWARDS FOR 2020 SCIENCE TEACHER, MR. HUSKEY

Boat Project and Adopt an Element

The chemistry and physics classes finished the e-learning process with two very successful projects that enriched their learning and demonstrated a great deal of creativity by the Conestoga Juniors of 2019-20. Chemistry students were tasked with researching a lesser known element on the periodic table assigned to them and making a power point to describe this element as if it was a newly adopted child of their own. The results were very creatively displayed as many students took it as a fun activity and demonstrated some creative writing abilities in the process. Examples of a few of their pages can be found below.



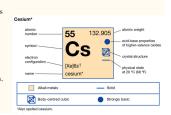


Growing up...

When we first got Cesium we didn't know how much he weighed but, we finally got the answers one day... he weighs 132.905!!

His school got pretty confusing though, so many different periods, groups, and blocks. But, he now has a basic routine: He is in Group 1 with all the other Alkali metals. He only goes to school for 6 periods a day. Is rank in the class is number 55. And, he LOVES S-block (a special block that is for him)

Explantation: Cesium's weight is 132.905 and is in group 1 of the periodic table with H and alkali metals. Cesium is also in period 6 of the table and is in the "s-block." Cesium atomic number is 55.





About Franci

I adopted franci in the year 1939 from her original mother

 $\label{thm:margine-def} \mbox{Marguerite named franci after her native country, France.}$

Mychild is French and can speak it fluently.



Melting point

Franci has some temper tantrums and when she gets mad I have to keep her temp under 80.5°F (26°C). Her melting point is 80.6°F (27°C) and I don't want her to get hurt.

CONTINUED...

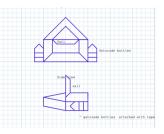
PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY PROJECTS AND SPECIAL SCIENCE AWARDS FOR 2020

Physics classes used the principles of buoyancy, water displacement, and density to make either a self-propelled boat or sail boat. Others took the option of making a boat made of cardboard and duct tape to hold one person and move at least 50 feet across a body of water such as a swimming pool or lake. This marks the 11th annual year of the boat project at Conestoga. Requirements included a scaled drawing, a summary of their research, a summary of their production and results, and a video of their boats in action. Examples of these may be seen below.









Overall, these activities and projects gave them a way to learn on their own, have time to complete the project, and use the application of science principles to have some fun along the way.

Special Science Awards (Mr. Huskey)

Each year seniors are given awards for excellence, taking more than the minimum science classes, and outstanding efforts in class and in the lab. This year marked an unusually high number of awards for an outstanding group of senior science students. Seniors receiving a trophy for their efforts over 4 years are: Mattie Haizlip, Cassidy Hartig, Bella Hogue, Ellie Sachs, Halley Shade, and Shay Uhe. A one-year award was earned by Haley Miracle.

The American Chemical Society awards the most outstanding chemistry student in each school with a certificate and medallion for their efforts and excellence in high school chemistry class. Conestoga's award winner this year is Dawson Hardesty.

Congratulations to all of these outstanding science students at Conestoga High School!

A NOTE FROM THE ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

MR. ERIC DENNIS

Thank you, parents, grandparents and guardians. The end of the school year did not go exactly how any of us planned. However, without your help and guidance at home we would not have been able to continue with your child's education. The past few months I have spoken with many parents, grandparents, and guardians while at HyVee or other places. Many of those people thank me for how well prepared we were to continue with our student's education. The thanks also need to be directed to you, the caring adults in each of these kids' lives.



I appreciated your patience with your children being at home. I know no one signed up to "homeschool" your children, but all of you went above and beyond. This summer have your kids play, relax, read, practice math facts, and just have fun. Try to stay off the computer as much as possible. Have a great summer.

CONESTOGA TEACHERS PREPARE FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR! ELEMENTARY INSTRUCTIONAL COACH: MRS. BERGMEYER

The school year has wrapped up for the students and staff of Conestoga. Although it was a crazy end of the year we want you to know that our staff is already preparing for a successful 2020-2021 school year! The teachers spent the end of the school year reviewing student learning prior to remote learning taking place and reviewing learning that took place during remote instruction. They reflected on what worked well and areas of growth for not only everyday teaching but also if remote learning should occur again. After this reflection time, our teachers have outlined an excellent plan to ensure next school year will be ready to go!!

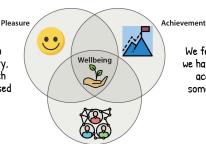
LOOK AFTER YOUR WELL-BEING BY FINDING BALANCE

ELEMENTARY COUNSELOR, MRS. LEFFLER

With the current health situation many of our normal routines and daily activities are changing. Naturally this can be unsettling, and we can find that the things we usually did to look after our well-being have become difficult. Whether you are working from home, or in some form of physical isolation or distancing, it can be helpful to organize a daily routine that involves a balance between activities that:

- give you a sense of achievement,
- help you feel close and connected with others and
- · activities that you can do just for pleasure.

When we are struggling with anxiety and worry, we can lose touch with thing that used to give us



We feel good when we have achieved or accomplished something so it's

At the end of each day check in with yourself and reflect on what did I do today that gave me a sense of achievement? Pleasure? Closeness with others?' Did I get a good balance, or what can I do differently tomorrow?

We are social animals so we need and naturally crave closeness and connection with

Closeness / Connection

ADVICE FROM THE 4TH GRADE

4TH GRADE TEACHER, MS. MANDEVILLE AND 4TH GRADE STUDENTS

Getting the kids to review the year they have had, noticing how much they have grown as students, and finding things they will miss is as much a part of learning as the standards we teach. Despite being away from each other, and not having the opportunity for traditional end of the year activities, for one of our Remote Learning Writing lessons the 4th grade students were asked to provide some advice. First, they were asked to provide advice to the future 4th graders – perhaps something they wish they had been known – next advice to other remote learners – how to be successful – and lastly, they were asked to give their teachers advice. Here is what (some of them) they had to say:

ADVICE TO FUTURE 4TH GRADERS:

- Make sure you take your time when you are doing a test. Don't be mean to anyone. And if you feel overwhelmed just stop what you're doing and take some breaths.
- Always need to ask a question if you don't understand what the teacher is talking about.
- They need to be role models for the younger kids.
- Don't worry 4th grade isn't really that hard.
 Once you get to the end of the year you will
 think it really was not that hard.
- Follow the teacher's directions on what they want you to do. And stay positive through any hard questions you have; the teachers got your back.
- -In order to succeed in this grade, you need to do your daily homework and bring it back. Listen to your teachers. Don't forget to fill out your planner!

ADVICE TO OTHER REMOTE LEARNERS:

- You can lose your mind, but take a break and try again. Make sure to get some exercise.
- Never give up. Stay strong. You got this.
- You should work in a quiet room and pay attention.
- My advice is to not get distracted. To be successful you also have to take breaks.
 Breaks are not being on devices.
- Be in a quiet place. Focus on what you're doing. Don't skip your assignments.
- Ask for help when you need it. If there's someone littler than you help them out.
- Try your best. Get it done so you can play with your friends. And don't be tense.
- Don't rush on your work even though you have a week to do it. And you can still ask for help.
- With remote learning I have learned to take breaks. I go outside as much as weather allows.
 This helps to clear my head and get refocused.
- Work hard to do all your work, and don't pout. Finally try to take your time.
- My first, pay attention when you are learning on the tablet. Second, do what the teacher says to do. And third, don't get behind on their schoolwork.
- Try the wake up early to get your work done. And try to have fun with it. Go back and check if it is correct.

ADVICE TO TEACHERS:

- Be patient. Be kind. Have fun. Keep promises.
- Don't be boring.
- Make learning even more fun than this year.
- Help your students every day. Have fun during remote learning.
- Keep caring, because what you do is very important.

YOUR STUDENTS DEPEND ON YOUR ENCOURAGEMENT, KNOWLEDGE AND COMPASSION. THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS BEING PATIENT. TEACHERS ARE IMPORTANT ROLE MODELS.

*Some advice edited for length

ACTIVITIES AT CONESTOGA

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR, MR. JASON AHRENS

<u>LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR ACADEMIC ALL-STATE</u>

Student -Athletes who are juniors and seniors that carry a cumulative grade point average of 3.6 or better and are varsity starters were eligible for this honor.

Boys Cross Country: Dawson Hardesty Braden Ruffner Benjamin Welch

Girls Cross Country: Bella Hogue Jessica Poirer

<u>Football:</u> Christopher Harkness Wesley Nickels Tobias Nolting

<u>Volleyball:</u> Myah Cummings Mathia Haizlip Taylor McClatchey

Boys Track & Field: Dawson Hardesty <u>Girls Track & Field:</u> Bella Hogue Shay Uhe

Girls Soccer:
Myah Cummings
Mathia Haizlip
Taylor McClatchey
Sarah Parmer
Olivia Priefert
Kelsey Weilage

Boys Soccer: Grant Nickels Wesley Nickels Tobias Nolting Caden Simon Koby Vogler Benjamin Welch Softball: Shay Uhe

Boys Basketball: Lane Fox Wesley Nickels Tobias Nolting Koby Vogler Benjamin Welch

Girls Basketball: Myah Cummings Taylor McClatchey Olivia Priefert Elizabeth Sachs

<u>Wrestling:</u> Dawson Hardesty Braden Ruffner NSAA Spring Academic All-State:

JOURNALISM Taylor McClatchey, 11 Olivia Priefert, 11

MUSIC Cassidy Hartig, 12 Halley Shade, 11

BOYS SOCCER Caden Simon, 11 Benjamin Welch, 11

GIRLS SOCCER Mathia Haizlip, 12 Kelsi Weilage, 12 BOYS TRACK AND FIELD Evan Svanda, 10 Dawson Hardesty, 11

GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD Bella Hogue, 12 Shay Uhe, 12

ONE ACT MOVED TO AUGUST

MRS. SCHLICHTEMEIER

Due to some technology glitches, the one-act auditions will be moved to the beginning of next school year. Specific dates have not been set yet, but plan on between August 10th and 20th. Any student who did submit a tryout video can opt to use that video as their official audition or they can re-audition in August. A reminder to all parents and students that one-act is an NSAA sanctioned activity open to all 9-12 students (junior high can participate in stage crew only). We would love to fill the stage with as many talented Cougars as possible. While we are not revealing our title to the public just yet, this year's show will allow for numerous students to participate. We have the opportunity to have students participate in our non-speaking ensemble for those who want to get involved but may have a little stage fright. Based on current interest, we could use more male actors (both speaking and non-speaking roles) and are also looking at adding live music to the stage, specifically drummers but potentially other instruments as well. We are also looking for creative students who want to help build the set, design costumes, and help with hair and makeup. Additionally we are always looking for parent and community volunteers who want to help with our set and costumes, either by coming in and helping the kids build set pieces, sewing costumes, or donating materials. If you or your student is interested and want more information about getting involved in next year's one-act, please contact Jessica Schlichtemeier at jschlichtemeier@conestogacougars.org.





Conestoga Public Schools P.O. Box 184 Murray, NE 68409-0184

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