**HEADIAN PUDIC Schools** "The Hoof Print"~ Home of the Mustangs

**Mission Statement:** 

Meridian Public Schools will educate all students in a safe, nurturing environment while challenging them to develop their integrity, knowledge, and unique talents to become responsible, productive citizens.

Newsletter

Newsletter-February, 2018 Superintendent Randy Kort

Meridian Public Schools would like to recognize the girls' basketball team and their success at the MUDECAS tournament. The girls finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the A division.

We are nearing the end of 4 weeks into the third quarter, and I would like to remind parents to please log onto PowerSchool to check your child's grades. It is a very busy time of year, so please help your children continue to focus on their academic goals.

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on February 5th, and 7th, starting at 4:00 pm and concluding at 8:00 pm. **Monday**, **February 5<sup>th</sup>**, the secondary teachers will be in their classrooms. On **Thursday**, **February 7<sup>th</sup>**, the secondary teachers will be back in the Commons.

We have recently had weather conditions that resulted in school starting late. Please stay tuned to the following stations for updated school closing when weather is in our area:

KLKN – TV: Lincoln KHAS – TV: Hastings KOLN/KGIN TV: Lincoln/Grand Island KUTT/KGMT 99.5 FM / 1310 AM Radio: Fairbury

Just a reminder to parents and students, Meridian Public Schools will be hosting the CRC Speech meet on Wednesday February 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be no school for the students that day.

Have a great Valentine's Day, and please come support our teams as the winter sports season will be ending towards the end of February and early March. www.meridianmustangs.org Board of Education Meridian Public Schools District – 48-0303 Daykin, Nebraska, 68338 Monday, January 15, 2018 <u>Regular January 15, 2018 Meeting</u> 7:00 P.M.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on January 15, 2018, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President VanWesten called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented. Members present were Vorderstrasse, Miller, Sobotka, Bartels, Scheer, and VanWesten. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Principal Scott, and guests Andi Kort, Jackie Dimas, Jacob Baber, and Chris Placek.

Superintendent Kort was appointed to preside over the process of electing a president.

Bartels moved and Scheer seconded to nominate VanWesten as Board President.

Sobotka moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Superintendent Kort turned the meeting over to newly elected President VanWesten.

Sobotka moved and Scheer seconded to nominate Vorderstrasse as Board Vice-President.



Bartels moved and Miller seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotkaaye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0. Vorderstrasse was elected Vice-President.

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Scheer moved and Sobotka seconded to nominate Bartels as Board Secretary.

Scheer moved and Sobotka seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotkaaye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0. Bartels was elected as Board Secretary.

Bartels moved and Scheer seconded to nominate Sobotka as Board Treasurer.

Vorderstrasse moved and Scheer seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0. Sobotka was elected as Board Treasurer.

There was nothing new to add to the agenda.

All members were present.

There were no comments from the public.

Sobotka moved and Bartels seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

- 1. Minutes of the Monday, December 18, 2017 Regular Meeting
- 2. District Financial Report
- 3. Activity Fund Report
- 4. Hot Lunch Report
- 5. Bills

Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Milleraye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheeraye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

U Mail to the varsity Cheer them along the way				
Page 2	Meridian Public School, District 48-0303	February, 2018		
Superintendent Kort presented the curriculum report. Meridian is currently advertising for the Ag Education position and will be interviewing applicants in the near future.	aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer- aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0. Miller moved and Sobotka seconded to approve Jefferson County Bank as the	Vorderstrasse moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 7:51 p.m. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6- 0.		
Andi Kort and Jackie Dimas presented the Juniors Prom Report. Prom will be April 14 <sup>th</sup> , at the Ohiowa Auditorium. Sobotka moved and Vorderstrasse	official District Depository. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6- 0.	Jason Bartels. Secretary Meridian District #48-0303		
seconded to approve teacher negotiations with a 3.3% increase in Base Salary. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller- aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer- aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.	Sobotka moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve The Fairbury Journal-News as the District Newspaper. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse -aye, Miller-nay, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-	Mustang MEMO Mr. Harold Scott Principal Our current student count: (as of 1-10- 18)		
Scheer moved and Bartels seconded to approve Jacob Smiley as Secondary English Teacher. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka- aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0. Sobotka moved and Scheer seconded to approve the resignation of Mrs. Schwan	aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 4-1 with Scheer abstaining. Bartels moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve the purchase of building supplies for a 24'x40' Storage Shed. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.	Pre-Kind       13         Kindergarten       17       +1 $1^{st}$ Grade       10       +1 $2^{nd}$ Grade       18       -1 $3^{rd}$ Grade       13       -1 $4^{th}$ Grade       16       -1 $5^{th}$ Grade       15       -2 $6^{th}$ Grade       12       -2         Total       114       (-2)		
with regrets. The Board would like to thank her for serving the Meridian District since 1985. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka- aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0. Scheer moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve the resignation of Jacob Smiley at the end of the second semester. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.	<ul> <li>Principal Scott reported:</li> <li>1. Student Numbers are 230 Total; 114 in Elementary and 116 in 7-12</li> <li>2. Congratulations on the Girls Basketball Team's Runner Up Finish in MUDECAS Class A</li> <li>3. Juniors Went to World War I Museum on December 20<sup>th</sup></li> <li>4. MUDECAS Speech Tournament is January 27<sup>th</sup> and Meridian Hosts at SCC</li> <li>5. Parent Teachers Conferences - Held on February 5<sup>th</sup>, and February 7<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00-8:30 (Both Days)</li> </ul>	$7^{th}$ Grade15 $8^{th}$ Grade18 $9^{th}$ Grade17 $10^{th}$ Grade19 $11^{th}$ Grade23 $12^{th}$ Grade24Total116(-1)Grand TotalGirls' basketball earned second place atthe MUDECAS basketball tournament.They are currently 13-2 and ranked #3in D1 Power points on NSAA.		
A first draft of the 2018-2019 School Calendar was presented to the Board. Following discussion, Scheer moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve the Standing Committees as follows: Americanism: Vanwesten, Scheer, Bartels Building & Grounds: Miller, Vorderstrasse, Scheer Transportation: Miller, Vorderstrasse, Sobotka	<ul> <li>7<sup>m</sup>, from 4:00-8:30 (Both Days)</li> <li>6. Speech Season has Started</li> <li>Superintendent Kort reported: <ol> <li>Legislative Update</li> <li>CRC/NSAA Updates: CRC has done away with sweepstakes winners and the Conference will present Academic Awards.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Update on CRC Administrative Salaries</li> <li>4. Updates on the Meridian Beef Program</li> </ul>	Juniors went on the World War I field trip to Kansas City on December 20 <sup>th</sup> . It was reported to be a successful visit. Second quarter / first semester ended on December 22 <sup>nd</sup> . Report cards were sent home on Monday, January 8, 2018. Parent Teacher Conferences will be held Monday, February 5, and Wednesday February 7, beginning at 4:00 p.m.		
Curriculum & Instruction: Bartels, Vanwesten Negotiations: Vanwesten, Bartels, Sobotka Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-	The next Regular Meeting was set for Sunday, February 18, 2018 – 11:30 a.m. due to a conflict on the third Monday.	We welcome Jacob Smiley back to the staff at Meridian as secondary English teacher.		



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Teachers participated in day 4 and 5 of APL training on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. This was a continuation of the training provide before the start of the school year. APL provides strategies in classroom management, lesson planning, and best practices in education.

The speech team started the 2018 season with a trip to Hebron. Meridian was unable to attend the speech meet in Fairbury since the MUDECAS tournament was rescheduled due to inclement weather.

It is Meridian's turn to host the MUDECAS speech meet. This will be held on Saturday, January  $27^{th}$  at SCC.



Seniors & Parents: Scholarship time is here! Most scholarships are based on academics, but others are based on community service, school involvement, or talent. Some are based on financial need as determined by the results of your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

Here's where you can find scholarships:

- *ScholarshipQuest* at EducationQuest.org features over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships. After you create a profile, you'll be matched with scholarships that fit your criteria.
- Your school counselor's office website. Our list of local scholarships is posted on the school website under the "Counselor" tab. Click on the link that says "go here to my website." From there, find the Scholarship tab and they will all be listed. Make sure you 'download' the documents and save them to your computer so they stay formatted correctly. I have included a local checklist on my page to help you keep track of each scholarship and the requirements. This document is only for your benefit and does not need to be turned into me. Please notice due dates and requirements for each scholarship. Do not wait until the last minute to start

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these! If you need letters of recommendation, make sure you give your recommenders plenty of time to write a letter (a minimum two week notification is ideal)!

- The college you plan to attend. Contact the school for a list of scholarships they provide and application procedures.
- National search sites such as College Board, Peterson's and Chegg.
- Other resources could include your coach, clubs and organizations, and your parents' employers and civic organizations.

Juniors & Parents: All juniors will be taking the ACT test at school on April 3rd as part of state testing (free of charge). If you want to take an additional ACT test this spring, you must register by March 9 for the April 14th test or by May 4th for the June 9th test. To register, go online to www.actstudent.org. If you would like to request a fee waiver, contact Ms. Hermsmeier. All Meridian students have FREE access to the On To College (formerly John Baylor ACT Test Prep program). Contact Ms. Hermsmeier if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity for the spring tests! Note that all juniors will be preparing for the April 3rd test using a form of ACT prep.

Juniors: it's time to find the right fit for college! Here's how to get started:

- 1. Attend a college fair to meet with representatives from colleges that interest you. Upcoming fairs include:
  - Lincoln Area College Fair Sunday, April 22, 1-3 p.m. – Southeast Community College – Lincoln
  - Tri-State Area College Fair Sunday, April 15, 1-3 p.m. – Marina Center – South Sioux City, Nebraska
  - Omaha Area College Fair Sunday, April 29, 1-3 p.m. University of Nebraska Omaha Sapp Fieldhouse

Before you attend, register for a barcode at NebraskaCollegeFairs.org.

Print the barcode (or download it to your smartphone) and take it to the fair. College reps will scan it to retrieve your demographic information – and you won't have to complete their information cards.

2. Schedule a campus visit. All juniors may have two excused absences to take a college visit! Schedule your visit through the counseling office to ensure your absence is excused. In addition to your two excused days of school, your upcoming spring break is also a good time to visit schools that interest you.

### National Honor Society

The National Honor Society will be holding its annual "Pennies for Patients" coin drive the month of February. The goal of this fundraiser is to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Individual donation boxes will be sent home with each elementary student and group boxes will be available for grades 7-12. A community donation box will also be available in the district office. Lift up those couch cushions and find that spare change.... Any little bit you can contribute will make a difference!

National Honor Society is hosting a Redcross Blood Drive on Tuesday, March 6, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please contact a National Honor Society member or call the school office at 402-446-7265 or visit redcrossblood.org and enter: MeridianMustangs to schedule an appointment. Walk-Ins Welcome!

## 2018-2019 KINDERGARTEN PARENTS' MEETING

All children who have turned 5 by July 31, 2018, are eligible for Kindergarten this fall. If your child qualifies, please plan to attend the Kindergarten Parents' Meeting for the 2018-2019 school year. The meeting will take place in the Kindergarten room at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27th, 2018. Please contact Judy Grummert at 402-446-7265 extension 1123 and let her know if your child is eligible and you plan to attend.

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We'll give a cheer for the varsity... Long may they reign supreme ...

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### Plant Sales! - - Seed Packets! - -New and Exciting!

It won't be long and we will be thinking about buying plants, flowers, and seeds for our gardens. After attending a workshop on the plant sales, new and exciting plants and seeds will be offered this year. The fundraiser, conducted by Grades 7-12, will be starting the first of March. These profits are used by their classes for prom and graduation expenses.

Janet's Jungle is again our distributor and has assured us that the hanging baskets will be full and beautiful this year. More and new varieties of plants and vegetables will also be offered, along with packets of seeds, which is something new this year. To see a complete listing, you may go to <u>www.janetsjungle.com</u> and see what will be available.

Please consider supporting your local school in purchasing your plants and seed packets. Remember—when you buy from a local student, you don't pay sales tax like you do when you buy elsewhere; and these plants are delivered to the school. You save on tax and save on mileage.

Help support the Meridian students as they will be approaching you for sales. All orders must be turned in by April 9. If no one approaches you, look at the Janet's Jungle website and place your order with Kathy Houser or Kathy Soukup at the school.

## JEFFERSON COUNTY SPELLING BEE

The 2018 Jefferson County Spelling Bee will be held on February 5th, 2018, at Diller-Odell Elementary School in Diller. The 5th and 6th grade division will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a 1:00 p.m. start for 7th and 8th graders. Parents and patrons are welcome to attend and lend their support to the students.

Mrs. Natalie Meyer, the 5th grade teacher, will be taking Samuel Thomas, Tucker Simms, McKenzie Hofstetter, Taelyn Filipi, and Shaysah Burkhart to the spelling bee. While Ana Dimas, Kolton Kumpf, Blayne Schelbitzki, Kymber Schwisow, and Evelyn Woitalewicz are representing the Meridian 6th Grade and are sponsored by Mr. Shawn Pohlmann.

Meridian Junior High students who have qualified are 8th graders: Kenna Placek, Drew Niederklein, Anastasia Aldrich, Erika Schwisow, Ally Kort, Brynn Holtmeier; Kailyn Paul, Anissa Gonzales, Bailey Holtemeier, and Kaylee Pribyl are the 7th grade participants. The Junior High division is being coached by Ms. Amanda Hanzlik.

Congratulations and good luck to all students who have qualified. Meridian is proud to continually have such good representation at this annual event.

#### FBLA

At State Leadership Conference, ribbons are awarded and worn on the name tags of the delegates. To receive a ribbon we must first complete an action, and one of Meridian FBLA's goals for the year is to earn as many ribbons as possible. On January 16, we completed the "Feed Nebraska" ribbon action. This ribbon is a small gesture to us in comparison to celebrating the EMTs and firefighters at the Exeter-Milligan basketball game on January 16. It was with great pride that we chose to celebrate the EMTs and firefighters. As a small gesture of gratitude, all of the EMTs and firefighters of the Meridian community were invited to be the Meridian FBLA's guests at M-PIE's soup supper. Being a public servant isn't always easy--especially when you put your life on the line for the safety of others. Sometimes you need to hear how much we admire and respect you and your commitment, dedication, and compassion. Our heartfelt thanks to you!

At the halftime of the boys' basketball game, EMTs and firefighters from Alexandria, Daykin, Ohiowa, Tobias, and Western were recognized. Due to other commitments, some of these great people weren't able to attend, but we would like to thank them for their service anyway. Exeter and Milligan EMTs or firefighters were also recognized in the audience after the local presentation. On behalf of the Meridian FBLA, we would like to thank all of the local EMTs and firefighters who are working tirelessly to keep us and the community as safe as possible. In the words of Dr. Thomas Dooley, "Dedicate some of your life to others. Your dedication will not be a sacrifice. It will be an exhilarating experience because it is an intense effort applied toward a meaningful end." And that is exactly what you do for us every day.

## **STUCO**

As usual the Meridian Student Council has been working toward a fun new year at Meridian. Although getting back into the swing of things after winter break can be difficult, StuCo has found a way to bring a little life back into the return of school. We have only been back to school for around two weeks, and we have some plans for the upcoming months that will likely be some very fun events. Not all of these events are set in stone yet, but the ones that are look like they are going to be an absolute blast!

A good way to kick off the start of a new semester is a dance. A dance can liven up just about any situation. This year we have decided to have a Winter Formal in lieu of a regular winter dance. The theme for this dance will be "Baby It's Cold Outside". This theme encapsulates the weather outside recently in a very real way. We will be having dinner for all who attend the dance from 7:00-7:30. Don't forget to wear you nice, fancy clothing because this is a formal dance. This is going to be a dance that will be fun for everyone to remember. I hope I see everyone there showing their very best dance moves!

As many of you know the Winter Olympics are coming up and to go along with the Olympic buzz, we will be having some sort of mini Olympic games at Meridian. These class games will surely bring everyone together to have a fun time. There are a lot of games that we will be organizing in the next month or so. So be prepared to have some fun and win some prizes. Shout 'til the echoes ring... For the glory of our team!  $\checkmark$ 

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StuCo will also be selling Valentine's carnations starting on Monday, January 22. We do this every year to bring some joy into the lives of the various people at Meridian. You buy a different colored carnation for everyone in your life. A red one for your loved ones, a pink one for a friend, or a white one for a secret admirer. If you overlook the order form at the bottom of the page, don't forget to hop on by Meridian to and place your order.

Getting back into school after winter break can be extremely hard but the Meridian Student Council is working hard to make the transition back into school as fun and lively as possible. The activities that the Student Council Meridian Public School, District 48-0303

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puts together are for everyone to enjoy and to be a part of, so that we as a community can grow closer and have fun together. I genuinely hope that all of the Meridian students choose to participate in these activities. Have a great time at the dance and get ready for some fun coming your way in the next couple of months, courtesy of your Meridian Student Council!

Wishing you a Fantastic February, Public Relations, Jacqueline Dimas

## CHANGES TO THE CALENDARS

**Please note** the time changes on **February 5th and 7th**, Parent-Teacher Conferences will end at 8:00 **p.m.**; and the girls' JV games on February 2nd and 8th, will begin at 4:30 p.m.

There will **NOT** be a Fire Department Brunch in Tobias on February 18th, as scheduled on the January Community Calendar. This was a misprint, and I apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

## SFS BASEBALL COACHING

If you have interest in being a Head coach of one of the teams for this year's SFS Baseball season, please contact either Toby Sones or Jason Bartels by March 1st. We will once again be voting for all head coaches this year at our spring meeting and you must have your name submitted by March 1st to be on the ballot.

 Toby Sones
 1-402-300-0681

 Jason Bartels
 1-402-446-2005

Valentine's Carnation Order				
Your Name				
RED (love)	How many?	at \$2.00 per flower = \$		
for				
whom				
PINK (friend)	How many?	at \$2.00 per flower = \$		
for				
whom				
WHITE (secret admirer)	How many?	at \$2.00 per flower = \$		
for				
whom				
Total number of carnations Total Owed \$				
Orders and money are due to Mr. V or Mr. Baber (in the high school) or				
Judy (in the elementary) by Friday, February 2nd.				

Go Mustangs!

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# Meridian Alumni Banquet - 50 Years!! June 9, 2018

Activities are being planned for the Meridian Alumni Banquet to be held Saturday, June 9, 2018, at the Tobias Auditorium.

This is the 50th year since the first graduating class in 1968, so special activities will be held to celebrate this anniversary.

Honored classes for this year will be: 1968, 73, 78, 83, 88, 93, 98, 03, 08, and 2013. We would like representatives from those classes to help organize any new activities. We will be contacting the graduates for help with the Banquet.

Our goal is to have an attendee from each class at the Banquet this year. Let's join the caravan to reach this goal.

We are working on special entertainment at this time.

Until we have additional volunteers to help this year, please contact one of the following for input and help with the Banquet.

Larry Miller (402)446-7271 Paul Bachle (402)446-7243

Meridian Alumni Banquet June 9, 2018 Deadline: May 31, 2018				
Banquet Only Name	Yr Graduated	_ T-shirt Size		
Banquet Only Name	Yr Graduated	_ T-shirt Size		
Volleyball Volleyball	Phone Number			
Enclosed is my check for(\$18/35) Checks payable to Meridian Alumni. Mail registrations to: Meridian Alumni, PO Box 172, Daykin, NE 68338				

