



Feb. 2012 Volume 16 Number 2

The Source Online

The Spencer Community School District Online Newsletter

Hello Everyone,

We finally have a little bit of winter in northwest Iowa. As you are aware, we missed our first day of school due to inclement weather on Friday, January 20th. With no snow days built into the calendar, the last day of school will be moved back to Monday, May 21st. If we experience more cancellations those missed days will have to be added to the end of the school year.



We have been utilizing the new Blackboard Connect messaging system for the cancellation on the 20th and the delay January 23rd. I want to thank all of you for your patience as we become more familiar with the system. It is important that we have correct/up-to-date contact information for all of our families. If you need to update contact information, you can do that several ways. You can go to the district web site, click on the "Parents" link, select a school where your child attends and update your information in the "Online Parent" section. You can also email the school district at techs@spencerschools.org with updated contact information.

Have a great month!

Terry Hemann
Superintendent



SPENCER HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES... TWO IMPORTANT EVENTS!

ONE.....Parent/Teacher Conferences

Traditional parent-teacher conferences will be held only one evening.

February 15, 2012 **3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

(This evening is reserved for discussion about student academic progress.)

Teachers will mail conference requests to parents of students who are experiencing academic difficulty. All parents are encouraged to schedule conferences with individual teachers, including parents whose students are making satisfactory progress. Please call 262-1700 and ask for Sandy if you wish to schedule a time to meet with your student's teachers. Conferences for this evening will not be scheduled until parents initiate a contact with the school.

TWO.....Registration

Registration for next year's classes will include both **students and parents**.

February 16, 2012 **3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.**

(This evening is reserved for class registration.)

Every student and his/her parent(s) will have a 10 minute scheduled conference on February 16th with the students' advisor to select the appropriate classes for the 2012-2013 school year.

The following registration materials will be handed to all students during Homeroom:

- Graduation requirements
- Current transcript
- Curriculum changes for next year
- Information about courses available at student's grade level
- Development of long term plans

A confirmation card will be hand delivered to parents by the student stating the scheduled time for your February 16th registration conference. Parents should fill out and have their student return the confirmation card to the advisor. The advisor will contact parents who have a conflict with the time and/or date of the conference. Registration materials should be read by both parents and students prior to the conference. Please bring all registration materials to the conference. Feel free to contact the guidance office if you have questions at 262-1700.

We encourage all parents to schedule Parent/Teacher conferences on February 15th. We hope to see students and parents on February 16th for registration.

CAREER CLASS NEWS

Upcoming Career Experiences:

Culinary Arts and Hospitality - January 24th from 10-11am
Building and Contracting - January 27th from 9-12am
Spencer Hospital Tour - February 1st at 12:45pm
H&N Tour for automotive and auto body - February 1st at 12:45
Archaeology - February 6th from 9-10am
Prosthesis - February 7th from 9-10am
Court Reporting or Captioning - February 9 from 9-10am
Engineering - February 15 from 9-10

Check out the Career Bulletin Board for more information or go to <https://sites.google.com/a/spencerschools.org/career/> to learn more about the career requirements and to sign up for a career experience

Liz Kluver
Career Coordinator
Spencer High School
800 East 3rd Street
[\(712\) 262-1700](tel:(712)262-1700)
lkluver@spencerschools.org
<https://sites.google.com/a/spencerschools.org/career/>



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

February 1	12:30 P.M. -	Early Dismissal – Teacher Inservice
February 2	7:00 P.M. -	Thursday Night Live at MS Auditorium
February 13	7:00 P.M. -	HS Vocal POPS Concert at MS Auditorium
February 15	2:30 P.M. -	Early Dismissal
February 15	3:30-7:00 P.M.	- Parent/Teacher Conferences
February 16	3:30-7:00 P.M. -	Parent/Teacher Conferences
February 17 -		NO SCHOOL
February 20 -		NO SCHOOL – PRESIDENT’S DAY
February 28-	5:30 P.M. -	Regular School Board Meeting



2012 SUMMER DRIVER’S EDUCATION INFORMATION

Sign up for Summer Driver’s Education is January 23 – February 10, in the MS or HS offices. Parents of students who sign up will receive an informational letter by March 9th. Registration materials are due in the high school office by April 4th. A tentative orientation is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 9, at 3:50 P.M. in the Middle School Commons**. This is a very important meeting because students will be assigned teachers, driving times will be scheduled, and information on the class will be discussed. The tentative first day of class is Wednesday, May 22 (depending on any snow make up days). If you have questions, please contact Mr. Beehler or Mrs. Foerster at 262-1700, or via e-mail at jbeehler@spencerschools.org



Sophomore Elizabeth Halverson has a poem titled "Defining Love" that has been accepted for publication in Creative Communication's book A Celebration of Poets.

VFW Voice of Democracy audio taped speech contest

Senior Jesse Barnes won first place in the local VFW Voice of Democracy audio taped speech contest. Senior Maddie Conley won second place. Junior Austin Helmink received third place. Monetary awards were given for each place while the first and second place entries advanced to regional competition. At regionals Jesse and Maddie won first and second place and now Jesse's speech continues onto state competition in mid January. Good Luck to Jesse and thanks to our local Veterans of Foreign War and Women's Auxiliary for sponsoring this contest.



OPEN ENROLLMENT NOTICE

Parents or guardians considering the use of the open enrollment option to enroll their children in another public school district in the State of Iowa for the 2012-13 school year should be aware of the following dates:

March 1, 2012 – Last date for regular open enrollment requests for the 2012-13 school year. If a student meets the definition of good cause under 281-Iowa Administrative Code 17.4 (1) because of a change in residence the application can be accepted after March 1, 2012.

September 1, 2012 – The deadline for entering kindergarten students. A student who transfers school districts under open enrollment in grades 9-12 shall not be eligible to participate in interscholastic contests and competitions at the varsity level during the first 90 school days of transfer. Parents/guardians of open enrolled students whose income falls below 160% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for transportation assistance.

If you have questions, please contact the superintendent's office at 262-8950.

Dear Prospective Kindergarten & KinderKids Parents,

You are invited to our “**Getting To Know Your Child**” one hour visitation time to be held on **Thursday, March 15, 2012** at Johnson Elementary School. This is a district in-service day so there will not be classes for students in Spencer. For this day, principals and teachers will be present to give you handouts and answer your questions about our Kindergarten programs. We ask you to bring your child, and child’s birth certificate or hospital record to be copied at that time. Please fill in the time at the bottom of this sheet that would work best for you and your child to attend- we will do our best to accommodate. We will call you with a confirmation.

Spencer Schools are providing an optional Kindergarten program called **KinderKids**. Parents who feel their child would benefit from an extra year of Kindergarten now have KinderKids as an option. This program is designed specifically for young school-age children turning five after March 1 and before September 15. All “young” five-year-olds are welcome and will be accepted to the program. Additional information will be provided at the March “**Get to Know Your Child Day**.”

It is important that we have the names of children who will begin school in the fall. To be eligible for either Kindergarten or Kinderkids, a child must be five (5) years old on or before September 15, 2011. A current immunization record, dental record, vision check and physical are required to attend Kindergarten. Bring these records to the school registration in the fall. Next year all of our preschoolers, kindergarteners, kinderkids and first graders will attend Johnson Elementary. If you would like more detailed information about anything relating to school prior to March 15th, feel free to call Principal Lucas DeWitt (262-4842) or email him at lucasdewitt@spencerschools.org.

Please complete the following information and return to any elementary office by Wednesday, February 1, 2012. If you would prefer to mail it- please address it to: **Fairview Elementary School, P.O. Box 200, Spencer, Iowa 51301**
Attn: Jane Thank you.

Name of Child _____
Last First Middle

____ Male ____ Female - Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____
Month/Day/Year City/State

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Mother’s Name _____ Home Phone _____

Mother’s Address _____ Cell Phone _____

Father’s Name _____ Home Phone _____

Father’s Address _____ Cell Phone _____

***Preschool** your child is attending _____

Preference of Kindergarten Program-

____ **Regular Kindergarten Program** –appropriate for all students, regardless of age

____ **KinderKids Program**-designed to provide parents a choice of two years of Kindergarten for their young school age child (those who turn five after March 1st & before September 15th)

MARCH 15th Sign-Up Time- Please put a one and two by the two times that works best for you and your child:

11:00-12:00 12:00-1:00 1:00-2:00 4:00-5:00 5:00-6:00 6:00-7:00 The Source 5

Dear Parents/Guardians of incoming 2012-2013 Freshmen:

In an effort to begin transitioning to the high school, Mr. Graettinger, your student's Guidance Counselor at Spencer High School, met with all 8th graders during the week of January 16-20. He discussed class choices, graduation requirements and successful strategies for transitioning from middle school to high school.

Mrs. Ward, Middle School Guidance Counselor, also met with your student and had them complete their freshmen registration form which were sent home for parent (s)/guardians to review and sign. With the inception of the *Iowa I Have A Plan* program students are able to develop a five year course plan that will assist us just as Future Freshmen Night has done in the past. As a result there will be no Future Freshmen Night this year.

Any questions that you may have can be answered by contacting the high school guidance office at [\(712\) 262-1700](tel:7122621700).

Sincerely,

Glenn Graettinger
Guidance Counselor

Eileen Gengler
Guidance Counselor

The Spencer Community School Foundation is here to say.... **The Tiger Pa's are back!**

The Tiger Pa's entertainment group has been practicing for another year of entertainment thanks to willing participants. The Spencer Community School Foundation has coordinated and welcomed participation in support of our kids and in celebration of the Foundation Fun Night. All junior and senior dads/guardians were invited to practice in preparation to perform at the Spencer Community School Foundation's Fun Night on **Tuesday, February 7, 2012** during the half time of the girls' game **AND** half time of the boys' basketball game.

The Foundation invites you to attend for an evening of great basketball and an overwhelming abundance of talent bursting from the "Tiger Pa's" – sure to make their children, spouse and friends proud.

The Spencer Community School Foundation will have assistance in their fundraising efforts from the "Strutters" Spencer High School Dance Team by providing a meal prior to the game and an appearance during the performance that you will not want to miss. Tickets are available from any of the Strutters or the front desk at Central Office. The meal is pork loin sandwiches, cheesy potatoes, cole slaw, bars, and drink. Meal price is \$6.00 in advance/\$7.00 at the door and \$3.00 for pre-K and under. Stop down to the student center from 5 – 7:30 and enjoy a great meal for the benefit of students.

We challenge you to assist in filling the gym and breaking our past attendance record on Tuesday, February 7!

Guest Artist David Pietro to perform with Tiger Jazz Bands



David Pietro is a professional jazz saxophonist from New York City who will be working with our Spencer jazz band students on Feb 20 and 21st. His visit will culminate in a evening performance – ***Jazz in the Commons*** at 7:30 pm in the Middle School Commons Area.

A native of Southboro, Massachusetts, Dave Pietro has been on the New York music scene since 1987. His talents as a gifted saxophonist, composer, and educator have made him an in-demand musician who has performed at jazz clubs, jazz festivals, schools and concert halls in more than 30 countries throughout Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America.

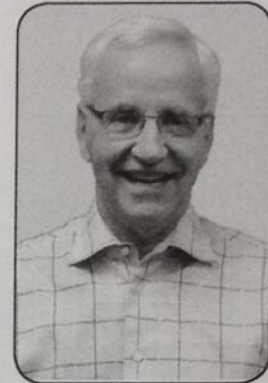
David Pietro is brought to Spencer by Hancher/University of Iowa and with support from memorial gifts for Lillian Swanson. Lillian Swanson loved working at the Spencer High School library for many years.

No tickets are required! This will be a fee-will offering performance with the proceeds going to support the Lillian Swanson Memorial Arts Fund through the Clay County Community Foundation.



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOU DO FOR THE SPENCER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS!

As a supporter of the Spencer Community Schools we hope that you will join in helping to make the 2011-2012 school year another great success. It is the generosity of our School Foundation supporters that makes these extra education experiences possible for the students and faculty.



Your gifts have helped us over the last ten years to provide (since 2000) over \$533,000 in scholarships awarded to 695 students. We've awarded thousands of dollars annually for the "Teach for Excellence Grants" which are presented to multiple students, classrooms and staff.

We've also donated \$102,000 to the middle school Kruse Music Fundraiser, purchased \$100,000 of smart boards for classrooms, provided partial funding to partner programs with Iowa Lakeside Lab, brought artists, scholars, authors and poets into our students' classrooms, raised over \$75,000 from area businesses to purchase new equipment for the high school Metal Technology Program, and so much more.

Part of the above was accomplished through a \$400,000 grant from the Dvergsten Foundation. We are to raise \$200,000 to leverage the grant to \$600,000 for our students. We need your help so that we can reach this match by 2013. Remember, these funds bring in educational speakers and authors, enhance business-school partnerships, promote technology and teaching training for teachers, and fund field trips and grants to students and teachers.

Our long-time Executive Director, Heidi Toale, is retiring. We are pleased to announce Tammy Higgins is stepping up into the Executive Director role and she will be assisted by former Spencer teacher, Mary Frank.

Help us make Spencer not just a good school system, but a GREAT SCHOOL SYSTEM. We have accomplished much over the past year, and we couldn't have done it without your support!

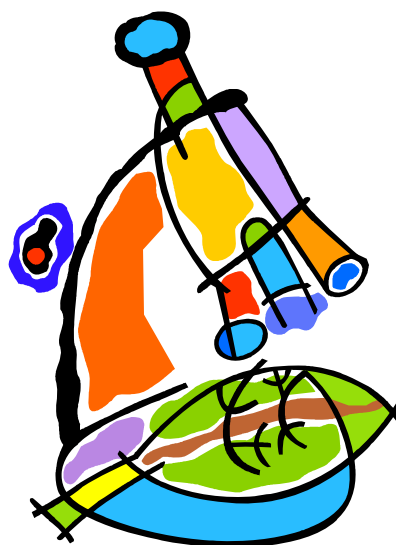
THANK YOU,

Dick H. Montgomery

Fairview First Grade



First grader, Izak Peterson, discovered the jaw and teeth of a mouse while dissecting an owl pellet. Clay County Naturalist, Stacie Young, shared owl facts with the students during the first grade Organism unit.



First grader, Xainder Norgaard, observes a bess beetle. The first graders are participating in an Organism unit, which includes plants, fish, pill bugs, and bess beetles.





PSY Newsletter



Positively Spencer Youth (PSY) is made up of parents and community members who want to make a difference with the Spencer youth. The goal of the group is to change the attitude towards substance use and abuse through prevention and education.

February 21st : 7pm

Monthly PSY Meeting, held in Spencer Hospital's Cedar Conference Room (lower level)

OUR MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

*February 2012
Volume IV: Issue VI*

**To reach PSY:
580-SAFE**

info@positivelyyouth.org

or find us on facebook

Moms, dads, children of all ages, grandparents, and other family members...don't miss the 2nd Annual Family Fest on Saturday, March 3rd at the Clay County Regional Events Center.

From 10AM – 4PM you can learn about all the great opportunities for families in our community, participate in fun activities like inflatables, check out the demonstrations and entertainment stage, and visit this year's expanded Safety City with even more interactive ways to learn about all areas of safety!

There is NO COST for this fun day, so you don't want to miss it!

PSY is seeking volunteers willing to help plan activities for youth and families in the area. Anyone interested in learning more, please contact



Spencer High School - District Calendar Info

February, 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 12:30 Dismissal/Teacher Inservice NWIBA District Jazz Festival	2 7:00pm Thursday Night Live @ Old MS Auditorium	3	4 6:00am State Large Group Speech Contest @ Multiple locations
5	6 State Jazz Choir Festival	7	8	9	10 Debate NFL National Qualifiers	11 Debate NFL National Qualifiers
12	13 7:00pm HS Vocal POPS Concert @ Old MS Auditorium	14 2:30pm Elementary Valentine Parties	15 2:30 Dismissal 3:30pm Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3:30-7:00 PM	16 2:30 Dismissal 3:30pm Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3:30-7:00 PM	17 NO SCHOOL 6:00am Large Group Speech - Super State	18 6:00am Large Group Speech - Super State
19	20 NO SCHOOL - PRESIDENT'S DAY	21 7:00pm Spring Play Tryouts @ Old MS Auditorium 7:30pm Jazz in the Commons @ MS Commons	22	23 7:00pm Spring Play Tryouts @ Old MS Auditorium	24	25 BVU Honor Band District Individual Speech
26	27	28	29			