

**August-September
2014**

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Tell the school board what you think

The Meade School Board is setting time aside during its regular Aug. 12 board meeting to take public comment on the City of Sturgis' request for land at the Sturgis Brown High School campus. That meeting, set for 5:30 p.m., will be held in the lecture hall (Room 111) at the high school. Public input will begin at 6:30 p.m.

"At this time the Meade School District does not have land for sale," said Superintendent Don Kirkegaard, "but the board will be considering the city's request at the August meeting." During that meeting, the city will again present information to the school board and patrons in attendance.

"This will be an opportunity for the public to hear the city's proposal, ask questions, and provide input to the board on a very important topic and for the board to hear some specifics," said Kirkegaard.

During his presentation at the July school board meeting, Sturgis City Manager Daniel Ainslie said the city wants to relocate the rodeo grounds from Ball Park Road in Sturgis to the east side of the school property. The city is also interested in purchasing land on the west side of the high school, which would eventually be sold for residential housing but in the short term would be leased for motocross racing.

Ainslie didn't specify a price the city was willing to pay or acreage needed, but did say they would need more than 20-acres for the rodeo grounds, which is the size of the current rodeo grounds. The additional land would be used for more parking and other opportunities. Regarding the property to the west of the high school, the City would be willing to purchase whatever land the school doesn't need.

If You Go

When: 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 12

Where: Lecture Hall (Rm. 111)
SBHS

WHAT DO YOU THINK? Continued on Page 3

"To Build Knowledge and Skills for Success Today and Tomorrow"

First day of school is Monday, Aug. 25

The 2014-15 school year in Meade School District begins Monday, Aug. 25. Prior to that day, new student registration, orientations and open houses will be held.

All students new to the district are required to bring to registration a report card or transcript of grades from their previous school and a certified copy of their birth certificate. In addition, they will be asked to provide and race and ethnicity information. Also required are immunization records. New students will not be admitted to school until and unless the school nurse has received and verified those records.

Sturgis Brown High School Grades 9-12

New students may register at the high school student services office any time between 8 a.m.-3 p.m. beginning Wednesday, Aug. 13.

An open house for sophomores, juniors and seniors and their parents will be 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 18, in the west gym. Topic for discussion are the procedures and protocols for the laptop computers that every student will be given this year.

An orientation for freshmen and their parents will be held at 6 p.m.

In Touch

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Questions or comments about the contents of this newsletter should be directed to the editor.

Tuesday, Aug. 19, in the west gym at the high school. Protocols and procedures for the new laptop computers will also be discussed at this time. Following this will be a meeting for all parents of freshmen and students new to the school district who plan on participating in extra-curricular activities.

Sturgis Williams Middle School Grades 6-8

New students may register from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday Aug. 12-13, at the temporary middle school office located in the Williams Administrative Building, 1230 Douglas Street.

An open house for all students and their parents will be held Wednesday, Aug. 20, as follows:

The sixth grade open house will begin at 4 p.m. in the Williams Administrative Building in the respective homerooms of the students. Class schedules will be posted. The open house concludes at 5 p.m.

The seventh and eighth grades open house will begin at 5 p.m. at Sturgis Williams Middle School in the respective homerooms of the students. All parents and students must enter the middle school building through either the west Grunwald lobby entrance on Third Street or the east Grunwald lobby entrance on Cedar Street. Class schedules will be posted. The open house concludes at 6:30 p.m.

Rural Schools Grades K-8

Registration and open houses will be held from 9:30-11 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, at each school.

Piedmont Valley Elementary School Grades K-6

Registration for new students will be 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 13, and 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 14 at the school. Students who were enrolled at Piedmont last year do not have to re-enroll. Any changes in phone numbers or addresses should be made at this time. Food service personnel will be present to sell meal tickets. A representative from the school bus company will be present to answer questions about the bus routes.

An open house for students and parents will be 2:30-4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21.

Whitewood Elementary School Grades K-6

Registration for new students is 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday, Aug. 11-15, at the school at 603 Garfield, Street. An open house will be held 1-2:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, at the school, during which meal tickets will be available for purchase.

Sturgis Elementary School Grades K-5

Registration for new students will be 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday, Aug. 11, through Thursday, Aug. 14, at the office of Sturgis Elementary, 1121 Ball Park Road.

Students who were enrolled at Sturgis Elementary last year or kindergartners who registered last spring do not have to re-enroll.

The Sturgis Elementary open house will be held from 2-4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21.

Kirkegaard emphasized that the city's proposal is on the agenda as a discussion item and that no action will be taken at that meeting. "I want the school board to get as much information as they possibly can before making a decision. They also need to decide what to do with the proceeds from any land sale," he said,

"We aren't selling land just to sell it, but there are some other land acquisitions that we should be looking at in Sturgis and other areas so that we can provide opportunities for future generations. We don't want to use any proceeds to build a building or buy computers," continued Kirkegaard. "We'd want to use it to acquire some land."

The land on which the 181,000-square foot high school and eight other school buildings are located was deeded to the district on Jan. 23, 1968, by the then named U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. The 495.2 acres of land was part of the Veterans Administration Hospital and was located north of Highway 34, across from the hospital facility.

The deed contained a provision that restricted the land's use to solely educational purposes for the next 30 years.

The science/math building was completed in

1973. In 1975, the school board leased five acres of land to the South Dakota National Guard for construction of a classroom and armory. Preliminary plans for that classroom and armory (east gym) were approved that same year with the joint project between the school and National Guard completed in 1979. Since that time, there have been three additions to the high school - in 1982, 1988 and 2000.

In 1988, with permission of the U.S. Department of Education, the school district conveyed 10 acres of land to the City of Sturgis for the construction of sewage lagoons.

In January of 1998, the U.S. Department of Education released its restrictions on the land.

Two years ago, as part of its discussion for a five-year plan for capital outlay, the school board held a hearing regarding long-term use of the land surrounding the high school. Public comment was taken and a poll conducted. Of the 93 people responding to the poll, 74 felt the school should retain the land while 19 thought it should be sold.

The school district currently receives, on average, about \$11,500 a year in rent from grazing and haying on that land.

SBHS homecoming is Sept. 29-Oct. 3

"Action Heroes" is the theme of this year's Sturgis Brown High School homecoming to be held Monday, Sept. 29, through Friday, Oct. 3.

Spirit Week kicks off Monday with coronation, which begins at 7 p.m. in the west gym at the high school.

Each day of Spirit Week will have a theme, when students and staff dress according to that day's theme.

The parade will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3, beginning from Ball Park Road near Sturgis Elementary School.



The parade will head north to Farley Street, east to Third Street, north to Douglas Street, east to Junction Avenue, north to Main Street, west to Third Street, south to Sherman Street and west to Fifth Street and Ball Park Road, where it will disband.

Homecoming week concludes Friday with the football game against Hot Springs at 6 p.m. at Woodle Field followed by a dance at the high school.

Area businesses and organizations interested in participating in the parade with a float or other entry should call the high school at 347-2686.

Mortensons sell bus company to Harlow's

Sixty-seven years ago the Sturgis Bus Company consisted of one 1942 automobile that had been enlarged into a 12-passenger bus used for transporting high school students living in Whitewood to school in Sturgis.

In 1987 when Einar and Gail Mortenson purchased the company from the Miller Brothers, the inventory consisted of 20 buses. Today that inventory totals seven motorcoaches used for school activities as well as tours, and 45 school buses, which provide transportation for Meade School District and also the Hill City and Custer schools.

As of Aug. 1, Harlow's School Bus Service is the new owner of the company. Founder Harlow

Hageness established the family-owned business in 1971 in Rolette, N.D., and today the business operates in six states where it sells buses and parts and provides maintenance services as well as contracting busing. Current owners are Harlow's sons, Jason and Jeremy.

The Mortensons decided to sell after their manager and friend Dan Olson died. "His passing put into perspective the importance of living each day to the fullest," said Einar and Gail. "Our business requires us to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. When we have buses on the road we are always thinking about the safety of our passengers and drivers, so

it will be a huge relief to eliminate that worry from our daily lives," they said.

The Mortensons wanted to make sure that when they sold, it was to a company that shared the same beliefs and values as they do and the Millers before them. "We chose Harlow's because we have known the family for years," said Gail. "We know they are a reputable and reliable bus company whose core values include safety and integrity."

The Mortensons said it will be extremely difficult to leave their dedicated employees. "They are truly amazing," said Gail. "We want to thank our employees, the

BUS COMPANY: See Page 12



New owners of the Sturgis Bus Company are Jason Hageness, left, and Jeremy Hageness, right, of Harlow's School Bus Service based in North Dakota. The two are pictured with Einar and Gail Mortenson, owners for the past 27 years, and Ernie Miller, second from the right, who, together with his brother Eddie, started the business in 1947. (Photo courtesy of Kristi Cammack)

Parents urged to make sure children's immunizations are current; clinic is Aug. 14

Meade School District parents are urged to make sure their school-age children are current with immunizations before school starts on Aug. 25.

South Dakota law requires students entering school or early childhood programs to present records showing they have been adequately immunized. Meade School District practice has been not to admit a student until and unless the school nurse has received and verified the immunization documentation.

This past spring, the Spearfish community experienced a number of confirmed pertussis (whooping cough) cases, along with many non-confirmed but suspicious cases. All caused interruption of educational services for those students and work for their parents.

A major cause of the spread of the illness was linked to the many students and adults not being

immunized or being under-immunized, which contributed to the spread of the disease.

"While the immediate concern this past spring was pertussis," said Meade Superintendent Don Kirkegaard, "we are warned that there are many other diseases with far worse consequences that can become the next big health issue in our community if we continue to be under-immunized."

The Meade County Community Health Nurse will be holding a free T-dap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) immunization clinic from 3-5 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 14, at the community health office, 1029 Fifth Street, Sturgis. (Meade County Extension Office building) This walk-in clinic is open to students 11-18 years of age. Parents or guardians must accompany those 11-17 years old.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

Meade School District may release the following student information as directory information pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act:

Name, address, parents or guardian of student, date of birth, date of attendance, school attended, participation in school-recognized activities, weight, height, age and grade of members of athletic teams, grade in school, individual and group photographs pertaining to school activities, and awards, honors or achievements.

All or part of the information may also be used in news articles recognizing students. If a student over 18 years of age or the parent or guardian of a student who is under 18 years of age refuses to permit the release of any of this information, written notification of such must be given to that student's principal.

Board Policy JO pertains to this act, and may be seen at the offices of the principals of all schools, the office of the superintendent and online at:

www.meade.k12.sd.us/POLICY%20Manual/FileJO.pdf

Activity tickets for 2014-15 are now on sale

Activity tickets for the 2014-2015 school year are now on sale. The activity tickets, which cost the same as last year, can be purchased at the high school, during registration and open houses at all Meade District schools, and at the first few home football and volleyball games.

The student ticket, available

to any Meade student in kindergarten through 12th grade, sells for \$25 and is good for the entire school year.

The adult activity ticket can be purchased for \$40 while the ticket for senior citizens (55 years and over) costs \$20. Both tickets contain 15 punches each.

The price for a yearly family

pass, which is good for parents and K-12 students, is \$100.

The activity ticket will also admit the holder to all high school plays, musicals and concerts. It is not valid for any state-sanctioned athletic tournaments.

Without an activity ticket, admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

Free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch are available in Meade School District

Free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch are available in the Meade School District to students from families whose household income falls within eligibility guidelines.

The district is able to offer a lower cost or no charge for these meals because it participates in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs, both of which are federally-assisted programs.

The reduced price for breakfast is 30 cents while the cost for a reduced lunch is 40 cents. The full price for those meals are \$1.85 for breakfast and \$2.80 for lunch.

In certain cases, foster children are eligible for free or reduced-price meals regardless of the income of the household in which they reside.

Not only do the participating

children receive a nutritionally balanced meal, but the school district benefits when a high number of students participate in the program.

Those benefits include an increase in Title I services, additional federal funds for the food service department, increased eligibility of the district for federal and state grants, and an increased reimbursement rate of costs relating to school internet use and phone services.

To view the eligibility guidelines and to apply for free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch, fill out the application which can be found online at:

www.meade.k12.sd.us/offices/food.htm

The applications are also available at all schools and the food service office.

Parents can manage their child's meal account via the internet

Parents can deposit money directly into their child's meal account and can receive emails regarding that account balance through the website:

www.MySchoolBucks.com

For parents with more than one child in Meade School District, payments for all children can be done from the same online account.

In addition, automatic email updates about low account bal-

ances or negative balances for each child are available.

For those who choose not to take advantage of the online service, Meade Food Service will continue to accept advance payments by cash or check. When paying in that manner, the student's ID number must be included so payment is credited to the correct account.

For further information, call food service at 347-3601.

For further information or for help in completing the application, call Meade School District Food Service Office at 347-3601.

Meal ticket info

Breakfast and lunch tickets are available through Meade Food Service Office located at 1121 Ball Park Road, Sturgis, from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. beginning Monday, Aug. 11.

Ticket prices are as follows:

Milk Tickets

20 milk ticket: \$10

Breakfast Tickets

20 meal ticket:

K-12, \$37; adult, \$42

10 meal ticket:

K-12, \$18.50; adult, \$21

5 meal ticket:

K-12, \$9.25; adult, \$10.50

Lunch Tickets

(Includes ½ pint milk)

20 meal ticket:

K-12, \$54; adult, \$64

10 meal ticket:

K-12, \$27; adult, \$32

5 meal ticket:

K-12, \$13.50; adult, \$16

Single meals are available. Breakfast is \$1.85 for students and \$2.10 for adults. Lunch costs \$2.80 for students and \$3.30 for adults. One-half pint of milk purchased separately is 50 cents.



Meade School District Business Manager Brett Burditt, left, administers the oath of office to re-elected board members Dennis Chowen and Courtney Mack and new school board member Joe Urbaniak.

School board reorganizes; adopts budget

The old school board was adjourned and the new Meade School Board was seated during the annual July meeting.

Outgoing board member Juanita Harrington was presented a school bell in recognition of her three years of service after which re-elected board members Dennis Chowen and Courtney Mack, both of Sturgis, and newly elected member Joe Urbaniak of Union Center were sworn in.

A number of organizational items including election of officers were decided at the meeting. Bob Burns of Black Hawk, who is beginning his sixth year on the board, was re-elected president and Mack was re-elected vice president

During the meeting, the members unanimously approved the \$25.1 million budget for 2014-15.

The General Fund of \$16,523,820 represents an increase of \$976,701 or 6.3 percent. This increase can be attributed to a 4 percent increase in insurance plus health care reform fees and compliance costs, 3.5 percent increase in staff salaries, and an increase in personnel at the high school for a computer integrationist and additional teachers in the elementary schools due to growth in student enrollment.

The increase is also the result of moving the property and liability insurance, high school utilities and all transportation costs back into the general fund budget from the capital outlay budget.

BUDGET: See Page 8

Additional \$100,000 grant received

Meade School District has received an additional \$100,000 Governor's Grant for Career and Technical Education through the South Dakota Future Fund to use for the career and technical education program at the high school.

This money will be added to \$89,967 the district earlier received from the state for the purpose of expanding and enhancing its manufacturing cluster classes at the high school by expanding the welding program and adding a machinist course.

The \$100,000 money will help with the construction costs associated with building a facility in the Sturgis Industrial Park, which is where the school's machining course will be taught.

Meade Superintendent Don Kirkegaard said he is working with the state to transfer that \$100,000 to the Sturgis Economic Development Corporation. "Giving us the money

makes things a little muddy since we are not building the facility," said Kirkegaard. "We just need to figure out the best way to get that money to SEDC."

The grants were made possible, in part, due to Western Dakota Tech, manufacturers at the Sturgis Industrial Park, and Sturgis Economic Development Corporation.

School board sets special meeting

The Meade School Board will hold a special meeting at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27, in the board room of the Williams Administrative Building, 1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis.

The purpose of the meeting is to meet with Dr. Rick Melmer, who

will present an overview for the district's strategic plan, and Toby Morris from the financial services firm of Dougherty Dawkins, who will present an overview of the district's indebtedness.

The meeting is open to the public.

Musical instruments are needed

The Sturgis Williams Middle School music department is asking for donations of new and gently used band instruments. Although the district has a small inventory of instruments, students must often rent instruments from music stores.

A student joining band not

only learns to play the instrument, but to read music, perform alone and with others, understand music history and musical styles, and experience first-hand how music is part of life and culture.

For more information call the middle school, 347-5232.

BUDGET: _____ Continued from Page 7

The Special Services budget increased by \$193,034 or 6 percent, going from \$3,120,725 to \$3,313,749. The increase is the result of an increase in child count, a 4 percent increase in insurance, a 3.25 percent increase in salaries and a 40 percent increase in speech-related services.

The Capital Outlay Fund increased \$203,333, or 4.4 percent from last year for a total of \$4,871,900.

Factors contributing to the increase in the Capital Outlay Fund include technology purchases for K-8 and for the one-to-one computer initiative at the high school, first of three payments for the land near the Stagebarn School site, and reconstruction

and renovation at Sturgis Williams Middle School.

The Pension Fund increased by \$14,080 or 3 percent for a total budget of \$446,300.

The entire budget can be viewed by clicking:

http://www.meade.k12.sd.us/offices/pdf_files/businessoffice.htm

Meade School District's tax request for the budget, in dollars per thousand, will be: General Fund: Ag \$1.782, down from \$2.090, Owner-occupied \$4.252, down from \$4.296, Other \$9.106, down from \$9.200; Special Education Fund: \$1.35, down from \$1.476; Capital Outlay Fund: \$3, same as the previous year; Pension Fund: \$0.30, same as the previous year.

Steve Keszler and Kristin Wheaton receive state and national recognition

Two Sturgis Brown High School teachers - Steve Keszler and Kristin Wheaton - have been honored this past summer for excellence in coaching and teaching. Steve was named the 2014 National Wrestling Coach of the Year by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association while Kristin has been selected the South Dakota Outstanding



Steve Keszler



Kristin Wheaton

Biology Teacher of the Year for 2014 by the National Association of Biology Teachers.

Steve, who has been a head coach for 24 years - 20 in Sturgis and four at Bon Homme - was honored for his lifetime achievement, not just for a season of coaching. His career dual record of 329 wins and 52 losses includes nine state championships, four second place finishes, 14 regional championships and 14 conference championships. He has coached 32 individual state champions and 172 state place winners. In addition, 17 of his wrestlers have gone on to become college All-Americans while one was a member of the USA World Team.

The 1985 SBHS alumnus has twice been South Dakota Coach of the Year, seven times conference coach of the year and eight times region coach of the year.

"There are many people who work hard toward the success of the wrestling program, and I get the credit," he said. "Therefore, I accept the award on behalf of everyone who has dedicated time and effort to the wrestling program - countless people who have kept a strong youth program, community supporters, all the coaches with whom I have been blessed to work, and, most of all, the athletes themselves."

Kristin, who is beginning her 16th year with Meade School District, teaches AP biology, honors biology, biology I and chemistry. She is considered a leader among her peers and exhibits great teamwork throughout the district. She approaches any and all aspects of the profession of educating children with eager anticipation. She shows all students com-

passion and respect, and goes far above expectations for the sake of their understanding of the subject matter which includes providing them with unique opportunities, hands-on experiences and mentoring outside the classroom. This includes cooperative projects with Bureau of Land Management, DC Booth Fish Hatchery, U.S. Forest Service and Black Hills State University.

During her time at SBHS, she has been active in her school and school district. She presently is the school's Science Fair coordinator, and member of the National Honor Society Advisory Council, Meade School District One-to-One Committee, One-to-One Device Pilot Committee, Meade School District Google Pilot Committee and Science Curriculum Review Committee.

She has just completed her sixth year as chairman of the Meade School District Science Department Committee.

Kristin will be recognized at the National Biology Teachers convention in November in Cleveland and will be formally presented the award at the South Dakota Science Teachers state convention in February.

Substitute teacher training

A training for persons wishing to serve as substitute teachers in Meade School District will be held at 9 a.m. Friday, Aug. 29, and again on Friday, Jan. 9, 2015 in the Williams Administrative Building, 1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis.

The purpose of the training is

to review the district's substitute teacher handbook and to answer questions about local procedures and policies. Tips for a successful classroom experience will also be given.

For further information call the district office at 347-2523 or the curriculum office at 347-4454.

School hours for 2014-15

Beginning with the first day of school on Monday, Aug. 25, the regular hours for the schools of Meade School District are as follows:

Piedmont

K-1st: 7:50 a.m.-2:15 p.m.

2nd: 7:50 a.m.- 2:20 p.m.

3rd: 7:40 a.m.-2:20 p.m.

4th-6th: 7:40 a.m.-2:25 p.m.

SWMS 8:10 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Sturgis Elementary

Kindergarten: 8:05 a.m.-2:55 p.m.

1st: 8:10 a.m.-2:55 p.m.

2nd: 8:10 a.m.-3:02 p.m.

3rd: 8:15 a.m.-3:05 p.m.

4th: 8:05 a.m.-3:02 p.m.

5th: 8:15 a.m.-3:05 p.m.

SBHS 8:05 a.m.-3:08 p.m.

Whitewood 8 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

Rural Schools 8 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

Schedule for school pictures

Meade School District is again making available to all its students the opportunity to have their pictures taken. The following is the schedule for each school.

Sturgis Williams Middle School: Thursday, Sept. 4

Piedmont: Friday, Sept. 26

Whitewood: Wednesday, Sept. 17

Rural Schools: Tuesday, Sept. 9

Sturgis Brown HS: Monday, Aug. 25

Sturgis Elementary: Wednesday, Sept. 10



SBHS seniors are reminded that one digital or wallet-sized photo (head and shoulders shot) must be submitted by Monday, Dec. 1, by emailing it to sbhsjournalismmedia@gmail.com, or dropping it off in Room 1. The senior photos will be used in the yearbook and by the local newspaper.

Help your favorite school by recycling

Support your favorite school by helping the students earn money. The following is what each school collects and/or recycles.

Sturgis Elementary: General Mills box tops, Grocery Mart cash register receipts, Campbell's soup/food/drink labels, and Land O'Lakes milk caps.

Sturgis Williams Middle School: Campbell's Soup labels, General Mills box tops and aluminum cans.

Piedmont Valley Elementary: General Mills box tops, Campbell's Soup labels, Land O'Lakes milk caps and cash register receipts from Haggard's Grocery.

Whitewood Elementary: Kemps milk caps, General Mills box tops, used printer cartridges, and UPC labels from Country/Village Hearth products.

Rural Schools: Cash register receipts from Lynn's Dakota Mart and Family Thrift Center.

"S" Club: Lynn's Dakota Mart cash register receipts. For every \$10,000 collected in receipts, the club receives \$100.

By participating in these programs, schools can receive money for student trips, school equipment, student incentives and educational supplies.



Tackling summer capital improvement projects

Buildings and grounds staff always have many capital improvement projects to complete during the summer months when school is not in session. Construction is nearly finished on one of those projects - a new track shed at Woodle Field, above. When completed, the 24'x40' building will house all the district's track equipment and serve as the headquarters for the State Track Meet when Sturgis hosts the first day of that two-day event next May. Other projects included moving the Sturgis Academy into the Business Building at the high school and then relocating the Buildings and Grounds Department from the 133-year old building in which it is housed into the newer building vacated by the Sturgis Academy.

Work continues on Sturgis Williams Middle School

Though a lot of work remains to be done at Sturgis Williams Middle School before the first day of school on Aug. 25, the contractor and subcontractors are working extremely hard to make sure things are ready when school starts.

The plan for the start of school has the seventh and eighth grade students occupying classrooms off the middle school's west corridor, an area not impacted by the October blizzard, and the sixth-graders attending classes on the second floor of the Williams Administrative Building.

The sixth graders will remain in the administrative building until the project is complete, which Superintendent Don Kirkegaard hopes will be early October. "Then we will move the sixth grade back to the middle school over the long weekend of Oct. 10,"

he said. The middle school's office, which is temporarily located in the Williams Administrative Building, will relocate to the middle school at that same time.

Parents needing to register their middle school children for school should go to the temporary middle school office. Further, all parents and students planning on attending the Aug. 20 open house must enter the middle school building through either the west Grunwald lobby entrance on Third Street or the east Grunwald lobby entrance on Cedar Street. (See open house information on Page 2.)

"We are very happy with the quality of work as well as the willingness by the contractors and subcontractors to go above and beyond to make sure we are ready for school," said Kirkegaard.



Auditions and performances set for September

Auditions for the Dakota Players production of "Space School Musical" will be 3:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 22, in the gym at Sturgis Elementary School.

All Sturgis and Whitewood area students in kindergarten through eighth grade are invited to audition for this production which is sponsored by the Sturgis Area Arts Council.

The musical is designed with suitable parts for every age, skill and experience level. No experience or advanced preparation is needed.

Five days of intensive rehearsals will be held from approximately 3:30-8 p.m. every day that week in which the lines,

staging, songs and dances will be learned. Students will need to be at each and every rehearsal so they must have a clear schedule that week.

In addition to the on-stage roles, older children are needed to assist the directors and learn how to operate sound and lighting equipment to add to the fun-filled, motivating, magical theatre experience.

The production is about Hannah trying to finish her science project, a model of the solar system. But there's a problem: it's due the next day she's not finished yet, and it's past her bedtime.

How will Hannah get it done? With a little help from her friends

– the most talented troupe in the Milky Way!

Performances will be 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, and Saturday, Sept. 27, at the Sturgis Community Center Theater.

Admission is \$6 for adults and \$3 for students. Children 5 and under are free. Meade School District activity tickets will not be honored.

Dakota Players is an outreach program of the Black Hills Playhouse. South Dakota Arts Council support is provided with funds from the State of South Dakota through the Department of Tourism and State Development, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

BUS COMPANY: _____ Continued from Page 4

school personnel, parents and students who have touched our lives," she said.

She offered special thanks to all three superintendents, business managers and activities directors with whom they have worked, and also the principals and school staff. "We especially thank our bus drivers who have driven safely for thousands of miles and our shop and office employees who keep things going. They are the best," Gail said.

Buses for Meade School District are driven 1,568 miles daily, transporting approximately 1,300 students to school and back home each day on 20 different routes.

In addition, six 65-passenger buses made 11 round trips daily during the past school year providing shuttle service between schools in Sturgis and Sturgis Brown High School for, on average, 340 students.

Professional Technical Support Staff and Teacher of the Year for 2014

The Meade School District Teacher of the Year for 2014 is Missy Urbaniak, and the Meade School District Professional Technical Support Staff of the Year for 2014 is Ginger Johnson. The two women were selected for the honor from among nominees submitted by the administrative units throughout the district.

Organized, caring, hardworking, dedicated, positive, kind, generous, accommodating, creative, sincere and approachable are just some of the words used by nominators to describe Missy, who has been a teacher for 10 years, all with Meade School District. She is currently at the Atall School where this past year she taught 11 students in kindergarten, third, fourth, fifth, seventh and eighth grades.

"Her even temperament and composed disposition brings peace to any situation," said a nominator, explaining that Missy's calm and pleasant personality is an asset when dealing not only with students but when meeting with parents and staff.

"Missy does a great job of combining new styles of teaching with the traditional ways to encourage children to be the best they can be," said a parent. "I love how she makes learning to read the center of her classroom by doing book studies, thematic units, art projects and much more. Our son has a great understanding of phonics and reading strategies and we credit this to Mrs. Urbaniak's style of teaching."

Said a co-worker who has worked with Missy for the last eight years, "I've witnessed her wonderful rapport with the students and other staff. She is always well-organized and keeps the best interests of her students first and foremost. Missy is an amazing human being and role model for our children," said another parent, "and we feel very blessed to entrust our children to her. She gives so much of herself to our children and is truly the epitome of this award."

District social worker Ginger Johnson has been a Meade School District employee for 10 years and, according to all her nominators, exemplifies all the attributes of an outstanding employee.

Ginger goes above and beyond the call of duty to assist students and their families with physical, financial and emotional needs. According to a nominator, "Ginger gracefully manages the most difficult situations, such as students lacking adequate food or financial means to buy medications, clothing, transportation or housing. Ginger works miracles every day by knowing who to contact to find resources to meet those needs and this often involves endless hours before and after school."

The following are a few examples of what Ginger has done for students: Found a bed for a student who needed a clean, dry mattress...going so far as to move it herself, using her own vehicle to deliver it to the student's home; Assisted parents to fill out and submit necessary forms for Medicaid eligibility to ensure health care needs were met; Transported several students and their parents to dental and medical appointments because they did not have a reliable car or money to buy gas; Helped a young student living in an unstable home environment to find clothing that fits...after he came to school with pants unbuttoned because they were way too small and uncomfortably tight; Helped a recently homeless family furnish a new apartment.

Parents always seem to have a positive feeling about Ginger, even though she often has to point out issues that are less than comfortable to talk about. Said a co-worker, "Despite what she encounters and must deal with on a daily basis, she always has a good attitude, a smile on her face and a willingness to help."



Missy Urbaniak



Ginger Johnson

Become a volunteer in the school

The education of youth takes a community effort, and because of that the Meade School Board is encouraging parents, guardians and other interested patrons of the district to volunteer their time, knowledge and talents.

Members of the community bring new energies and resources into the schools and expand the walls of the classrooms. School volunteers enrich the educational program and strengthen the schools' rela-

tionships with homes, businesses, public agencies and private institutions. All volunteers in the Meade School District do so without pay or employee benefits, except for workers' compensation.

For those interested in volunteering, fill out the form on the next page, and clip and mail it to the district office or go online to the district web page <http://www.meade.k12.sd.us/parent/volunteer.htm> and either print out the form or complete it online.

Inservice heralds school year beginning

The preschool inservice for Meade staff, which heralds the beginning of the new school year, will be held Tuesday through Thursday, Aug. 19-21.

The first day begins at the Sturgis Community Center with refreshments and exhibits prior to the 8 a.m. kickoff. Opening ceremonies include the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem followed by greetings from Superintendent Don Kirkegaard and Meade School Board President Bob Burns. The school board members, administrators and new

teachers will be introduced after which the superintendent will address the staff.

The remainder of the first day is dedicated to school-level meetings. Activities for day two will take place at each individual school. New K-5 teachers will receive instruction in the new math Investigations curriculum.

For the final day of inservice, all staff will be in their classrooms planning and preparing for the school year.



Bell presentation

Meade School Board President Bob Burns, right, presents a bell to outgoing board member Juanita Harrington in appreciation of her three years of service as a school board member.



"To Build Knowledge and Skills for Success Today and Tomorrow"
MEADE SCHOOL DISTRICT VOLUNTEER SIGN UP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

I want to volunteer at the _____ school/s.

I will be volunteering as a/an _____.

Do you have a physical condition that would endanger the health, safety or welfare of students in Meade School District 46-1? If yes, please explain.

Are you willing to submit to a background fingerprint check: _____ Yes _____ No

Have you ever had a criminal background check with the Meade School District?
_____ Yes _____ No If yes, when? _____

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? _____ Yes _____ No If yes, please explain:

Signature of volunteer

Date

_____ Please request fingerprint background check for volunteer.

Administrator Signature

Date

A letter from the high school principal

Dear Parents/Guardians of SBHS Students:

We are excited to provide a MacBook Air laptop computer to your student this year. All students in grades 9-12 will receive laptop computers. Some parents will be excited for their children, some will be apprehensive and many of you will be both.

Here is a brief philosophy. The device will enhance teaching for the teacher and enhance learning for the student. The laptop alone will not cause better teaching and learning. The teacher will continue to be the most significant facet of teaching and learning in the classroom.

In combination with effective instruction and the benefits of what technology has to offer, Sturgis Brown High School will step up its ability to provide students the opportunity to engage in learning at the highest levels.

We will have two open houses before school begins to explain the check out procedure and provide important information for you and your student. We highly encourage you to attend.

All sophomores, juniors and seniors are encouraged to attend the open house on Monday, Aug. 18. The freshmen orientation designed for freshmen and their parents will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 19. The laptop presentation will be on that night for parents and guardians of freshmen. Both sessions begin at 6 p.m. in the west gym of the high school.

A sum of \$35 for insurance purposes and \$15 for laptop covers for the devices will be collected

during the open house. The \$35 insurance policy is for accidental damage. The \$15 cover is required to help protect the computer.

Please bring a check or cash to take care of these costs. If preferred, you may stop in the high school office and Pam Gies can take care of the payment before school starts. There will be a more detailed explanation of this issue during the open houses.

If you qualify for free and reduced meals, the school will refund your \$50 for the insurance and laptop cover. Your financial status is completely confidential. The higher our free and reduced numbers, the more federal benefits our school district receives. School districts receive federal aid based on the number of families who qualify. Please fill out the form if you haven't. You can pick up a form at the high school and the food service office. The application is also located on the district website.

If you have questions before the open houses, feel free to contact me, Assistant Principal Don Lyon or Technology Director Jeff Ward at the following email addresses:

Jeff.Simmons@k12.sd.us

Don.Lyon@k12.sd.us

Jeff.Ward@k12.sd.us.

Sincerely,



Jeff Simmons, principal
Sturgis Brown High School

Subscribe to **In Touch**

To have **In Touch** automatically sent to your inbox, go to:
<http://www.k12.sd.us/Listserv/MeadeInTouchNewsletter.htm>.

Fill out the form on that subscription page, or send an email to listserv@k12.sd.us with the following in the message body: **subscribe MeadeInTouchNewsletter**

This newsletter is also posted on the district website: www.meade.k12.sd.us/parent/intouch.htm

Meade School District calendar for 2014-15

The following is the approved calendar for the 2014-15 school year. Any snow days will be made up by adding additional days at the end of the school calendar. Furthermore, Feb. 16 (Presidents' Day), March 13 (Spring Break), and April 6 (Easter Monday) will be used as make-up days if more than two snow days have been used prior to Feb. 1, March 1, or March 31, 2015. Please note these changes to the calendar: • The dates of the February parent teacher conferences for the elementary schools are now Feb. 17 and 19. • April 20 has been added as an additional inservice. • Make-up days for inclement weather will commence following the second snow day instead of the third snow day.

Staff Inservice	Aug. 19-21, 2014	Parent-Teacher Conferences:	
First Day of School	Aug. 25, 2014	Middle School: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 9, 2015
Labor Day (no school)	Sept. 1, 2014	High School: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 10, 2015
Parent-Teacher Conferences:		Middle & High Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 12, 2015
Elementary Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Oct. 6, 2014	Presidents' Day (no school)	Feb. 16, 2015
Middle School: 4-7 p.m.	Oct. 7, 2014	Parent-Teacher Conferences:	
High School: 4-7 p.m.	Oct. 7, 2014	Elementary Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 17, 2015
All Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Oct. 9, 2014	Elementary Schools: 4-7 p.m.	Feb. 19, 2015
Inservice Day (no school)	Oct. 10, 2014	Inservice Day (no school)	Mar. 12, 2015
Native Americans' Day (no school)	Oct. 13, 2014	Spring Break (no school)	Mar. 13, 2015
Inservice Day (no school)	Nov. 7, 2014	Good Friday/Easter (no school)	April 3-6, 2015
Thanksgiving Vacation (no school)	Nov. 26-28, 2014	Inservice Day (no school)	April 20, 2015
Christmas Vacation (no school)	Dec. 22-Jan. 2	Graduation	May 17, 2015
Inservice Day (no school)	Jan. 16, 2015	Last Day of School	May 20, 2015

Check out the activities calendar

The Meade School District activities calendar includes more than just sporting events. Also listed are concerts, speech tournaments, open houses and more. The calendar is continually being updated so check back often to remain current with all districtwide events: <http://www.meade.k12.sd.us/calendar/calendar.htm>

Directory for Meade School District

Schools

Rural Schools

Bev Rosenboom, principal.....269-2264

Atall.....985-5916
16375 Atall Road, Union Center, S.D. 57787

Elm Springs.....798-2492
21309 Elm Springs Road, Wasta, S.D. 57791

Enning.....985-5364
Highway 34 Box 22, Enning, S.D. 57737

Hereford.....985-5380
15998 Cross S Road, Hereford, S.D. 57785

Opal.....748-2426
18010 Opal Road, Opal, S.D. 57765

Union Center.....985-5367
1700 Highway 34, Union Center, S.D. 57787

Office.....985-5532

Piedmont Valley Elementary School

16159 Second Street, Piedmont, S.D. 57769
Ethan Dschaak, principal.....787-5295

Sturgis Brown High School

12930 E. Highway 34, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Toll-free 1-888-568-3514

Jeff Simmons, principal.....347-2686
Don Lyon, assistant principal.....347-2686
Mike Paris, activities director.....347-4487

Academy.....347-9349

Sturgis Elementary School

1121 Ball Park Road, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Chantal Ligtenberg, principal.....347-2386
Ann Nonnast, assistant principal.....347-2386

Sturgis Williams Middle School

Temporary office:
1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Toll-free 1-888-567-8274

Lon Harter, principal.....347-5232
Ann Nonnast, assistant principal.....347-5232

Whitewood Elementary School

603 Garfield, Whitewood, S.D. 57793
Bev Rosenboom, principal.....269-2264

Superintendent

1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Don Kirkegaard.....347-2523 x2
Toll-free 1-877-522-6251

Business Manager

1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Brett Burditt.....347-2523 x1
Toll-free 1-877-522-6251

Buildings and Grounds

12940 E. Highway 34, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Cody King, maintenance foreman.....347-2649

Communications Office

1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Kristine Hubbard.....347-2523 x3

Curriculum and Technology

1610 Fulton Street, Sturgis**
Jeff Ward, director.....347-4454

Food Service

1121 Ball Park Road, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Joe Schaffer, director.....347-3601

Nurses' Office

1121 Ball Park Road, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Randi Oviatt.....347-2610

School Social Worker

1121 Ball Park Road, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Ginger Johnson.....347-2386

Special Services

1230 Douglas Street, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Chrissy Peterson, director.....347-2523 x4
Deb Kerstiens, assistant director.....347-2523 x4

Harlow's School Bus Service

2237 West Sherman, Sturgis, S.D. 57785
Andy Ellingsen, transportation manager.....347-5066

Woodle Field

600 Woodland Dr., Sturgis**347-2003

**Not a mailing address