

February 16, 2012

To: Smitty

From: Monty Aldrich

THOUGHTS FROM THE UNIT OFFICE...

Sorry it's taken so long to publish another column. We've been extremely busy with finances, personnel, and upcoming bids on construction work for the summer.

I'd like to remind everyone that the North Clay Academic Foundation is sponsoring an indoor rummage sale at the North Clay Commons on Saturday, Feb. 25, from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Anyone can rent tables, bring their items, and keep all proceeds. The NCAF will keep the table rental charge and put towards scholarships for graduating seniors. If you are interested in renting tables, call the Unit Office at 665-3358. Otherwise, come out and shop that morning. We will have around 30-40 tables rented.

The annual Supercards event will be on Friday, March 30. Second through fourth graders will show their talents in basketball and cheerleading. There will also be a Rhodes Fish Fry in the Commons from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door. The annual NCAF membership drive will also be that evening.

Thanks to all NCAF memberships and donations, the iPad portable lab is now up and running with 30 iPads and a charger cart for students. I firmly believe this is the way of the future in education. If you get a chance, come and visit a classroom when this is being used in our curriculum.

Upcoming retirements this year will be plentiful. So far, there are four veteran staff members retiring who have been a huge part of this school system for years. Jean Porter, Carolyn Grahn, Mary Loy and Nancy Lewis are finishing their final year with North Clay. We wish them the best in their retirement and hope they get to enjoy many peaceful years ahead!

Again, North Clay CUSD 25 is continuing its needed maintenance and upgrades to our school buildings with summer projects. We are currently taking bids on a new HVAC system, and new windows and doors at the high school. We will also continue clean-up, painting, and cosmetic improvements on our grounds in the summer. If we proceed with this work, stay tuned for special schedules regarding accessibility of the buildings.

As you may have heard, with Carolyn Grahn, high school principal retiring at the end of this school year, Julie Healy, current grade school principal, will make the move to that position. At our most recent board meeting, the Board voted to hire Penny Arnold as the new grade school principal. Penny is no stranger to this area as she previously taught at North Clay, and currently resides here. Penny is currently at North Wayne (Cisne) High School and also spent time as an administrator in Rockford, Illinois

Many of you are still under the perception that you aren't welcome inside our buildings during the school day. That's not true! We would love for you to come and visit classrooms, each lunch with your child/grandchild, or be a Watchdog for a day. Just make an appointment with the office and come visit and experience all of the wonderful things going on in our classrooms.