

Building for the Future

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Hinton Community School
Hinton, Iowa 51024
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Sales Tax for School Infrastructure

By Mr. Al Steen

For two years, we have been lobbying the legislators to adopt a statewide sales tax for school infrastructure. Twenty-two counties in the state currently have approved the Local Option Sales Tax for school infrastructure with 60 percent of all sales in the state already subject to the local option sales tax. A statewide sales tax will not be a tax increase; the majority of all sales already pay the tax! Every time we shop in Sioux City, we are paying for the construction of their new schools. A recent *Des Moines Register* poll indicates 67 percent of the people in Iowa support a statewide sales tax for school infrastructure. Common sense dictates that the legislators address the item this legislative session, ensuring an equitable disbursement of sales tax for school infrastructure. Most legislators have indicated a willingness to address the issue to create equity for all school districts.

We need your help! Please take a moment to compose a personal handwritten letter to your legislators, urging them to support an **equitable** statewide sales tax for school infrastructure. Listed below are the legislators that serve our school district and some letter writing tips:

Senate:

Kenneth Veenstra — #2
216 Arizona Ave. SW
Orange City, IA 51041
712-737-2331

Ron Wieck — #27
4362 Old Lakeport Rd.
Sioux City, IA 51106
712-276-4408

House:

Ralph Klemme — #3
13191 Hickory Ave
LeMars, IA 51031
712-533-6364

Dan Huseman — #53
6144 Y Ave
Aurelia, IA 51005
712-434-5880

Letter writing tips:

- *Write a personalized letter. Avoid form letters.
- *Write in a polite style.
- *Identify yourself. For ex: **I am a patron of yours and live in Senate District #2.**
- *Be specific and concise.
- *Focus the issue on the impact it will have on our local district.

Example: **A statewide sales tax for school infrastructure will generate between \$238,000-\$357,000 per year for our school district. These funds will meet the facility needs identified by our community facility committee. If a statewide sales tax for school infrastructure is passed, we will be able to meet the needs of our students without raising taxes.**

- *Ask the legislator to support your position.
- *Thank the legislator for his or her consideration.

Statewide Sales Tax for School Infrastructure

By Mr. Al Steen

After obtaining community input, the Hinton Community School Board has decided to concentrate on lobbying our legislators for the successful passage of a statewide sales tax for school infrastructure, replacing the local option sales tax for school infrastructure. The school board needs your help. Please contact your legislators urging them to support an equitable statewide local option sales tax for school infrastructure. The successful passage of a statewide local option sales tax will meet the school's physical plant and equipment needs, and a physical plant and equipment levy will not be necessary in the future. We have been lobbying our legislators for the past two years on this issue. Below are frequent questions and/or objections that have been raised. For your convenience, responses are also included to these questions/objections.

“This is a sales tax increase, and I vowed not to increase taxes.”

The question is not whether or not we raise the sales tax. The real question is whether we implement the “one penny” one county at a time in a haphazard fashion, or whether we choose to: implement the penny in an orderly uniform way, guarantee property tax relief, and ensure equitable distribution of the revenues.

It is an increase for less than half the taxable sales in Iowa. More than 60 percent of taxable sales in Iowa are already subject to the tax. This just applies to the other half.

Many urban residents (i.e. Polk County) already pay the tax. This is no change in the rate on taxable items.

Many rural residents already pay the tax when they shop in urban centers. Rural legislators need to understand their constituents already pay the tax, but in many cases get no benefit in return.

This bill is the most significant piece of property tax relief legislation in Iowa's history.

Legislators may not have a choice. Either the General Assembly and Governor agree to provide equity, or the courts may issue an order requiring equity as they see it. Legislative problems are best solved with legislative solutions. More than 170 school districts have joined together and have filed a lawsuit challenging Iowa's school aid formula for infrastructure. Hinton Community Schools is one of the school districts in the “Common Cents for Schools” coalition.

Voters in 23 counties have proven the obvious. The sales tax is the mechanism voters prefer, and voters approve of taxes when they know the revenue is devoted to children and property tax relief.

“This bill will discourage schools from reorganizing and becoming more efficient.”

The sales tax reform bill actually provides an incentive to reorganize. Regional high schools and academies will no longer be subjected to 60 percent majority votes in multiple school districts. Small schools will now be able to pledge the same amount per student via 28E agreements, and overcome the barriers in the current system.

Very small schools are occasionally “property-rich.” The \$4.05 levy affords them a huge amount of infrastructure capacity per student. For a district with 100 kids, \$700 per pupil barely builds a three-bedroom ranch, let alone a high school but a \$4.05 levy might. This bill reduces their capacity to \$2.70.

Schools that want to reorganize or share will be in a better position to do so, because they will have a per-pupil revenue stream to bring to the table. Districts that are currently not desirable to neighboring districts will now become more desirable.

“This bill doesn't provide enough property tax relief. We need to put all the money into default property tax relief and have the

voters determine at 60 percent supermajority to reclaim the money for education.”

Some property tax is guaranteed. Property tax relief is mandated for bond issue debt above \$2.70.

More property tax relief will naturally result. Local school districts have historically chosen to lower property taxes as they receive sales tax revenue.

Local process to guarantee more property tax relief is put into place. Reverse referendum process forces all revenue into designated property tax relief before a district can spend it.

Future property tax relief: It is enough that you will never have another bond issue again in 99 percent of Iowa's communities. A 60 percent supermajority is unattainable with \$700 per student going to Iowa schools.

Default property tax relief would be divisive. Default property tax relief would be the opposite of Iowa goals for educational equity. If greater property tax relief is required in the law, some districts will have to pass a \$7.50/\$1,000 bond issue right after telling constituents their property taxes have gone down.

“This bill provides sales tax equity, but we need to do something about property tax equity. We're willing to help sales tax poor areas, but we're not doing anything for property tax poor areas.”

This bill addresses total tax equity. By putting the lion's share of infrastructure spending on a statewide per-pupil basis, we are giving the same amount to every district regardless of sales tax base, and regardless of property tax base. By replacing part of the \$4.05, we are giving the greatest property tax relief to the poorest areas in terms of property valuations.

Sales tax base is not evenly distributed and the property tax base is not evenly distributed. This bill brings the two bases together. For the poorest districts in Iowa, the amount received from the state infrastructure sales tax will

exceed the amount received from maximum bonding AND school local option taxes combined.

This bill goes further towards providing property tax equity than any legislation since the school aid formula was adopted 30 years ago.

“Sales taxes are regressive.”

Property taxes are more regressive. A Peat Marwick study of Iowa taxation in 1993 show that property taxes are 40 percent more regressive than sales taxes. Property taxes are not tied to income and have to be paid by people on fixed incomes and by people who earn very little income.

Education is progressive. You cannot look just at the tax. You have to look at what you are spending the money on. If you raise everyone's taxes the same dollar amount that is regressive. However, if you were to transfer all the money to low-income families, the net result would be progressive. Spending and taxation are tied together.

Working families benefit from increased activity in the construction trades.

Utility sales are now exempt from the state sales tax but not from the local option. The plan is less regressive than the current system.

Sales tax is the only viable political option – The sales tax is already in place. This just ensures fair distribution. What is the alternative?

“The reverse referendum would create problems for school districts, and take too much authority away from the school board.”

Iowa Association of School Boards strongly supports the proposal. The association would not support it if local control were at stake.

Schools are no worse off than current law. The referendum does not apply to revenues already being received under current law.

Worst Case Scenario (from pro-infrastructure viewpoint) – A school

district gets no more revenues than under current law, but has a dramatic property tax reduction for its taxpayers.

Once property tax debt and PPEL are paid off, the reverse referendum has no impact on the district. All the revenues can then be used for infrastructure.

The current system is the antithesis of local control by allowing the voters in neighboring districts in the same county to determine the resources of a school district. For example, every single voter in Ankeny could vote for or against a local option sales tax and the voters in the rest of Polk County would have to agree for Ankeny to receive or deny the tax.

The state provision of resources does not suggest the state determines how those resources are spent. Just like the school foundation formula, the local district determines infrastructure needs and is best capable of balancing the property tax expectations of the community.

“If the sales tax is raised, it should go towards instruction and operations.”

This bill does not redirect the purpose of school sales tax monies, only the distribution. To redirect the purpose of the money would be to put the entire revenue stream in jeopardy.

While student achievement is the number one issue, Iowa schools have an infrastructure deficit of more than \$3 billion (ISU study). This revenue stream will not eliminate the deficit, but will go a long way to ensuring our children are going to school in safe schools.

21st century education requires 21st century facilities. That means new schools need new technologies, and old schools need to be retrofitted for new technologies.

This revenue stream, both politically and practically, is simply not available for the operations side of the budget.

Administrative energy spent on infrastructure funding will be redirected to instruction and staff development.

“We have always said voters should have a say. It's wrong to go back on that promise.”

Voters elect school board members and legislators.

No promise has been broken. Voters in areas of local option sales tax are guaranteed what they were promised. It is foolish to continue doing things the same way simply because that is the way you have always done it.

HF 660 provides a structure of community input and agreement with the school district through acceptance of the district infrastructure plan.

Voters do not, in fact, have a say in all educational issues. Forty years ago, districts with higher property tax bases could provide better education programs than districts with low property tax bases. The State of Iowa wisely decided 30 years ago that every child should have equal educational opportunities regardless of region, urban/rural status, or even the political will of the community in which the child lives. Now, 30 years later, we have a chance to extend that promise to the infrastructure side of learning opportunities and achievement.

Voters' wishes are likely to be ignored under current law if litigation puts the entire system at risk. A legislative problem demands a legislative solution.

“This is a pretty good idea, but I don't think it's possible this year.”

If you wait, you get less. In just three years, local option sales tax has gone from zero to 60 percent of the taxable sales in Iowa. As additional counties pass the tax, it will cost more to grandfather new school districts that are above the average. That leaves less for everyone else. Waiting only makes the system less palatable to everyone, as the amount per pupil drops from \$700 to \$600 to \$500, etc.

The bill passed the House local government committee last April. The proposal had literally no chance before the beginning of last session, and now is gaining broad bipartisan support.

It is not important that every legislator think it is possible. If the legislation solves so many problems, we should all do whatever we can (especially legislators) to make it more possible.

Iowans are smarter than then the politicians think.

Iowans can recognize that their schools are improving.

Iowans are committed to equitable educational opportunities.

Iowans will appreciate huge reductions in property tax burdens and will be satisfied that virtually no more property tax bond issues will be proposed.

Iowans will be pleased not to have to vote for any more property tax bond issues.

Rural Iowans will increasingly resent the sales taxes they pay in urban areas, while receiving nothing back in return.

Urban Iowans will increasingly face difficulties as lawsuits threaten their revenue streams, or as voters become less likely to extend the tax in 10 years.

According to many legislators, the local option tax exists because a previous General Assembly lacked the political courage to create an equitable system from the start. This General Assembly has the opportunity to exhibit the political courage to make it right.



Blackhawks Earn Honors

By Mr. Steve Diediker

The Blackhawk football team recently wrapped up the 2002 season with the fifth State playoff berth in the 34-year history of the football program. Several Hinton athletes were honored by different groups and publications for their efforts.

The Iowa Newspaper Association selects All State teams by school classification. Joel Bertrand was named to the Class A first team as an offensive lineman. Scott Guthmiller was named to the INA second team as an offensive lineman.

The DesMoines Register also selects an All State team by class. Joel was selected to the Class A second team as an offensive lineman.

The Sioux City Journal names an unclassified All Northwest Iowa team. Scott was named as a second team offensive lineman, while Joel made the third team as an offensive lineman.

The Omaha World Herald covers some schools in western Iowa and names an All Western Iowa team by the school's classification. Three Blackhawks were named to this team. Scott was named to the Class A first team as an offensive lineman. Kyle Muecke was selected as a first team defensive back on the Class A squad. Joel earned honorable mention honors as a linebacker on the All Western Iowa team.

The Blackhawks played in Class A District 2 this season. The coaches of District 2 selected an All District first and honorable mention team. Scott and Marcus Dittmer were named first team offensive linemen on this honor squad. Kyle and Brandon Bollmeyer were named first team running backs on the All District team. Joel and Tyler Milton were named to the first team as linebackers. Tyler Hansen rounded out the Blackhawks first team honors by being selected at his defensive end position. Three Blackhawks were named to the second team by the district coaches. Kadrian Hardersen and Kyle Fischer were named to the honorable mention team as defensive backs, while Seth Diediker was named to this squad as a defensive tackle.

The LeMars Daily Sentinel names an All Plymouth County team each year. The Blackhawks had seven players placed on the first team. Scott, Joel, and Marcus were first team offensive linemen. Kyle Muecke and Brandon Bollmeyer were named first team running backs. Tyler Hansen was a first team tight end. Brandon McQuillen was named to the first team as a kicker. Four Blackhawks were named to the second team. Tyler Milton was named second team linebacker. Kadrian was named to this team as a defensive back. Seth made the second team as a defensive tackle. Kyle Fischer was named a second team kick returner.

Congratulations to these athletes on a great season and for being named to these honor squads.

Kayla Chase Wins National Award

By Ms. Chris Johnson

Kayla Chase received first place in the nation in the central division of the American Legion Auxiliary 2002 Poppy Poster Contest. At a recent Plymouth County Auxiliary meeting in LeMars, Kayla received a bond from the Hinton Legion Auxiliary and her district, state and national awards.

Her poster depicts a chair with the American flag draped over it, on the floor a pair of combat boots and some poppies, and a coat rack hung with a soldier's helmet. The slogan she chose was "Let them hang their hats in honor." Congratulations to Kayla.



Winter Sports Scoreboard On The Web

*By Mr. Bruce Held
Athletic Director*

We now have a Scoreboard Page on the school website where you can access all the latest scores from all the games this winter. Varsity, JV, and C basketball scores, as well as wrestling results will be published on the web. You can access this page by going to the school's home page (hintonschool.com), then clicking on "Athletic Schedules". At the top of the schedule page will be a link called "Sports Scores". Click on that, and then scroll down until you find the appropriate score. Thanks again to David Attrill for setting up this service, as he continues to make our website a model for all other schools to follow.

Cross Country Girls win Academic Award

By Mr. Mark Wilson

This season highly successful Girl's Cross-Country team has garnered another award. Recently, The Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union has awarded the team the Distinguished in Academic Achievement award. This award is presented to girls' teams whose combined grade point average falls between a 3.61 and 4.0 GPA classroom work while actively participating in interscholastic athletics.

The Hinton squad's combined average was a 3.75 GPA. Those ladies include Candice Whitney, BreAnn Schindel, Megan Brown and Kaylee Small. These students exemplify the excellence achieved by the young people of today and the future of tomorrow.

Congratulations to the team.

Track Sweat Suit Purchases

By Mr. Mark Wilson

Recently, a number of parents and athletes have been inquiring about whether we will be selling the popular all weather track suits sold last spring. The answer is yes, if they can still be purchased. I will be contacting the salespeople, early in December, at the Iowa State Track Coaches Clinic in Ames. If we can still make purchases, then, we will take orders in February so as to have the suits available for the start of track season.

For those patrons unaware of these suits, they are an all weather suit with a Hinton track logo on the front of the pants and jacket. A large script Hinton is place on the back. Top and bottom can be purchased together or separately. The top has a heavily sweatshirt lining while the pants have a lighter weight lining.

Cost of the sweatsuits is unknown at this time, but hopefully, the price will be close to last years pricing. If interested look for future announcements in the February newsletter.

HCEA's Holiday Tour of Homes

By Mrs. Laurie Bird

The Hinton Community Education Association's Holiday Tour of Homes was another huge success. Christmas goodies, festive conversation, and handcrafted items to be raffled all helped in making this fun filled day a holiday hit. A big thank you is extended to Jeanne Mahaney for donating the items to be raffled and to all the "faithful tourists" who attend and support this yearly event.

Heartfelt thanks to the four gracious homeowners - Kelly and Sarah Culver, Kermit and Mari Dahlen, Dave and Julee DeRocher, and Mike and Deb Schenzel for showcasing their beautiful homes. The proceeds will benefit the HCEA student scholarship program and HCEA sponsored activities. Again, thank you so much for your support.

Instrumental Music

Mr. John Price

The Hinton Bands have put away the sleigh bells for another year and are busy preparing for the March 13 concert called "The Band Extravaganza." The Extravaganza features performances by all four bands individually, (Fifth Grade, Sixth Grade, Junior High, and High School), and topping off the evening with a combined performance with all students forming a Massed Band of nearly 190 musicians.

It is a great night of musical entertainment, so mark March 13, 2003, 7:00 PM on your calendar. Admission charge for the evening is Adults \$3.00 and Children \$2.00.

Notice

Parents of nonpublic school students seeking transportation reimbursement must submit a form to the public school district in which they reside. The deadline for these requests is December 1 for first semester claims and May 1 for second semester claims. Parents in the Hinton Community School District may obtain forms by contacting the superintendent at PO Box 128, Hinton, Iowa 51024.

School Playground Needs Improvements

By Mr. Pete Stuerman

Hinton Community School is in need of your ideas and assistance! The school's playground is in desperate need of updating to make it a better environment for our children, and at the same time encourage their age-appropriate growth and development with handicapped accessibility.

Specifically, a few of the necessary changes that need to be addressed first include:

- The swings with their supports need to be replaced.
- The slides built into the side of the hill need to be removed.
- The landscape ties encompassing the boundaries of the playground also need replacing because they contain creosote, a wood preservative that is coming under fire by the EPA.

A playground committee has been formed to look into the costs and options for upgrading the present equipment. The committee is also researching any available funding sources, i.e. grants, sponsorships, and donations of time, equipment, etc. Depending on funding, the project may need to be completed in phases.

If anyone has ideas about the type of new equipment that should be included in the project, or would like to be a part of this group, please contact Mr. Peter Stuerman, elementary principal. Additionally, if you know of resources that could help us complete this important project, we would love to hear about them.

The next meeting for the playground committee will be held on January 16 at 6:30 PM in the library. Please come out and help us meet this challenge to create a positive, fun environment for our children in which to learn and grow.



Department of Education School Accreditation Visit

By Mr. Al Steen

On November 19-21 a Department of Education Site Visit Team was in our school conducting an accreditation visit, as mandated by state statute. The Department of Education conducts the accreditation visit every five years. Rita Martens, department of education consultant, was the team leader and provided the exit interview report to the school district.

Our school district will receive an official written report, which we will publish on our Web Page when we receive it. The exit interview report was summarized into the following categories: Student Benefit, Leadership, Monitoring and Adjusting (curriculum/test scores), Staff Development, Alignment, and Other Areas. The Site Visit Team had the following comments for our school district:

Department of Education Site Visit

Student Benefit

Strengths:

- Data shows improvement over time
- Gender gap has been closed
- Resources were used to create Standards-based assessment (NWEA)
- Climate-culture goals were exceeded, lots of data collected
- All groups cited Hinton as a safe environment
- Dropout rate is low
- New computer lab is enhancing learning
- AR/DEAR has transformed school into community of readers
- Cisco and A+ offerings / agreement with WIT offers various opportunities for students
- Discovergarten Transitional Kindergarten provides additional support
- Guided Reading allows instructional level activities for teachers
- Reading Recovery was mentioned as a positive in numerous interviews

Suggestions:

- Examine the decline in ACT scores...why is this happening? It does not trend with the ITED data.
- Parents and teachers listed concerns for at-risk for students in grades three and beyond – if funding becomes available consider additional support at these levels
- Seek opportunities to allow for diversity within the Hinton district
- Additional school-to-work opportunities for students

Leadership

Strengths:

- District Advisory Committee deeply involved in the school improvement planning process
- Parents are involved
- Before and After School Program provides needed childcare for working parents
- Parents are supportive of early release times and childcare is provided
- There was evidence of ownership concerning the district goals
- Curriculum writing has addressed standards/benchmarks/critical objectives and alignment is ongoing
- All students participate in district-wide assessments

Suggestions:

- Continue to make facility updates a main priority
- If funding is available, return curriculum to full-time position
- Consider utilizing other forms of classroom assistance such as more parent volunteers

Monitoring and Adjustment

Strengths:

- Assessment is used to inform instruction
- Goals were modified as directed by the data
- APL reinforces teaching to objectives
- The district has an overall positive outlook (staff, parents, board)
- Curriculum is clear

- Effective Schools surveys have provided information to set goals/ receive feedback

Suggestions:

- Restore previous positions when funding is available
- Continue work with curriculum with curriculum mapping as next step
- Update technology by seeking other funding sources

Staff Development

Strengths:

- APL training for all staff
- Staff development is aligned to CSIP
- Implementation of study groups has created a community of learners – providing staff choice in study groups is a positive
- Utilization of AEA to assist in staff development
- All resources are used for staff development

Suggestions:

- Teacher evaluation tool is based solely on APL – consider new evaluation tool

Alignment

Strengths:

- Annual Progress Report is made available to all members of community
- District website is a good communication tool

Suggestions:

- Make information from APR available to public in smaller portions throughout the school year

Other Areas:

Communication is a positive Board policy has been updated Student handbook is shared in hard copy and online PK-12 environment is positive

No Child Left Behind Act

By Mr. Al Steen

The new No Child Left Behind Law has created many more requirements for all school districts in the nation. School Districts must now report up to 2,000 baseline facts to the federal government, which they did not report before. Facts range from student academic performance to teacher licensure information.

The law also stipulates that all Parents/Guardians in the Hinton Community School District have the right to learn about the following regarding their child's teacher's qualifications: state licensure status, special endorsements for grade level/ subject area taught, and baccalaureate/graduate certification/degree.

Parents/Guardians may request this information from the Office of the Superintendent by calling 947-4329 or sending a letter of request to Office of the Superintendent, 315 W Grand, Hinton, IA 51024.

Iowa teaching qualifications have always been public information; therefore, the law does not create new requirements for Iowa as it does some other states. We are very fortunate to have a state with very good Open Meeting Laws, protecting the public from any potential problems.



Dear Parent

Did you know that the plastic in each printer cartridge takes more than 1,000 years to decompose, and that 1.5 million cartridges go to landfills each month?

Our school is now participating in the Green School Project, a program that reduces this incredible waste and earns money for our school. We collect empty printer, fax, and copier cartridges. Please feel free to send students to school with your used cartridges to be deposited in the Green School Project collection bin.

In addition, your work place can help our school by recycling their used cartridges. Green School Project will provide you with collection bins, prepaid Fed Ex labels, and shipping materials free of charge. If you think your place of business might be interested, visit www.greenschoolproject.com, and click on "sign up now" and then "companies." Our school will receive the cash for every cartridge you recycle! We can also recycle old cell phones so feel free to bring those in as well.

The pages at the end of this newsletter will give a detail list of cartridges and cell phones that are redeemable for collection.

Thank you in advance for your help. Please contact Janet at 947-4428 if you have any questions.

A Thank You from the HPA

By Mrs. Janet Held

The Hinton Parent Association would like to thank the students, parents, teachers, family, and friends of the Hinton community that supported our fundraiser. We had a very successful fundraiser and at our November meeting, it was decided that the money would be spent in the following way.

- \$2400.00 to the library for new library books.
- \$2500.00 to the playground project with another \$2500.00 payment to be made in the spring.
- \$4100.00 to be divided up among the 41 teachers, all getting \$100.00 to be used for educational items for their classrooms.

We could not have had such a successful fundraiser without the help and support from everyone and our thanks go out to you. Watch for details on our next fundraiser, the school carnival in March. We will start planning this year's carnival on January 23, 2002 at 7:00 PM in the Tech Center. Everyone is welcome.

The next roller skating party sponsored by the HPA will be Thursday, December 19 from 6:30-8:30 PM. Everyone is welcome.

Hinton Ball

First Annual Hinton Ball is to be held January 25, 2003 at the Hinton Community Center. Come for food, fun, entertainment, and prizes. A live band will conclude your evening entertainment. We will even provide a list of baby-sitters that are willing to donate their time so your evening will be special. Ticket price is \$50 a couple or \$25 single. You may call Rhonda Sessoms at 947-4825, Eliese Hoffman at 938-2593, or Marsha Craft at 947-2443 for more information or to purchase tickets. This fun and enjoyable evening will help benefit the lights for the baseball field and the After Prom.

Raffle tickets will be sold at \$100 each and only 100 tickets will be sold. There will be a 50/50 split on the raffle. Winners will be drawn during the evening.

Let us make this a wonderful community annual event!



Lights, Camera, Action!

By Mrs. Ann Mosher & Mrs. Katie Galvin

Do you remember the story of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl?

The third graders performed the play *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* to many different audiences.

The children worked hard on lines, props, costumes, and backdrops for the performance. Many students worked very hard at trying to memorize their lines.

This was the culminating activity to the classroom read-aloud book. The children seem to enjoy this story and the exciting happenings every year. As a reward for their great behavior, the children watched the movie while enjoying pop and popcorn.



Creative Writing Students Share Their Work

By Mrs. Julie Johnson

The Creative Writing class has spent this semester learning various writing techniques and sharing some of their writing with others. In October, the class entered a Halloween writing contest sponsored by the Sioux City Journal with Sarah Lohafer winning first place in the high school division and earning free tickets to the 4th Street Haunted House. Her story was then featured in the Weekender. Later in the month, the students began composing their children's stories, which were later shared with the Discovergarten and Kindergarten students. The students each purchased a blank book for this

project and used computer clip-art to illustrate their books. Titles for the children's books included The Big Day at the Farm by Kyle Fischer, Susan's Big Lesson by Katie Davis, Toad Racers by Erica Carter, My First Day of Preschool by Amanda Anderson, My Little Puppy by Colleen Gerow, In the Sky by Sarah Lohafer, Fox's Big Day by Zack Barkley, The Foolish Beaver by Phillip Millard and My Dog by Thiago Sousa. In addition, the final contest of the semester included submitting short stories to the Siouxland Reading Council creative writing contest; we are still awaiting results of this competition.

Instrumental Music

Mr. John Price

On Saturday, November 2, Kyle Rodgers auditioned for acceptance into the Northwest Iowa High School Honor Band. Kyle's audition consisted of memorization of 12 major scales including chromatic, performance of two Etudes, and sight-reading. He competed against students from 56 Northwest Iowa Schools and was selected for chair placement into the Northwest Iowa High School Honor Band.

Kyle will be proudly representing our school with his musical abilities at an all day rehearsal and evening concert at Epply Auditorium on the Morningside College Campus on Saturday, January 4, 2003.



ABOVE: The Different Looks of Learning

Mr. Held in a Nutshell ("Let Me Out!")

By Alyssa Grigsby and Katie Coffin

Mr. Bruce Held is a 45-year-old junior high math teacher who also coaches high school football. He has been married to his wife, Barb, for 25 years and has three kids. Niki Friessan is a physician's assistant in Des Moines. Lindsey is currently attending Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, Iowa. Brian is a junior at Hinton. He also has a cat, Sammy, and a dog, PJ. They live east of Hinton on an acreage. Mr. Held loves teaching school, and his favorite class is eighth grade math.

Mr. Held is one of our most humorous teachers, so we jokingly asked him what it was like when dinosaurs roamed the earth, and he politely responded that it wasn't bad: they were big but slow. We asked him to tell us a joke as an example of his humor. "What do you call a cow without legs? Ground beef! But we shouldn't be making jokes about cows without legs."

In high school, Mr. Held was a good kid. He played all the sports and only ever got two B's. When asked of his high school graduation picture, he responded that he had long hair: you could not see his ears and that he "looked like a geek." After high school, at Northwestern College, his favorite class was Early Modern European History.

Mr. Held's favorite food is prime rib. His favorite color is red, and he likes family reunions. His favorite sport is football. His favorite movie is *Hoosiers*, favorite book is *Big Bad Bruce*, favorite TV show is *NYPD Blue*, and his favorite magazine is *Sports Illustrated*. He loves peanut M&M's. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, and golfing. His favorite rock group from the '70's was the Eagles.

Mr. Held is a funny teacher, yet he is also very wise. His philosophy on life is "You either get better or you get worse: you never stay the same."

Mr. Held is a wonderful teacher and the junior high would not be the same without him.



Senior Marcie Faith demonstrates French braiding on junior Colette Vondrak during her presentation. (Photo by Miss Holtgrew)

Job Shadowing Gives English Students New Perspectives

By Ms. Jennifer Holtgrew

For students in Miss Holtgrew's class, English has become a hands on class. As part of a major project, students selected an occupation to study. They researched the jobs in the li-

brary, and then went to local businesses. At the jobs, students interviewed people and observed them during a three hour time period. After the job shadows, papers were written about the careers. Students also gave oral presentations to the class that included demonstrations and visual aids.

While the most popular choice was cosmetology, other fields selected were auto body, agricultural co-op, and funeral director. Each student reported positive experiences on the job.

Applied English is a class that focuses on English skills in the work place. It is taught on a rotating 2-3 day basis. Students report to class two days, then have P.E. their third day. The second semester of the class will focus on using technology for presentations, as well as resumes on paper and on-line.

Campbell's Labels For Education

By Mrs. Janet Held

At Hinton School, a new year also means back-to-collecting Campbell product labels. We are very excited to be participating in the Campbell's Labels For Education™ program this year. The program is a great way to earn FREE merchandise for our school, but we need your help.

Help us earn educational equipment this year simply by saving the labels from any of the hundreds of varieties of Campbell products and sending them to school with your child. Some of the products eligible for redemption in the program include:

- Campbell's® Soups
- Campbell's® Supper Bakes Meal Kits
- Franco-American® Spaghetti Os pasta
- Prego® pasta sauces
- Swanson® broths and canned poultry
- Pace® salsa and picante sauces
- V8® and V8 Splash® juices
- Campbell's® tomato juice
- Pepperidge Farm® breads, cookies, crackers, and frozen products
- Pepperidge Farm® Goldfish® crackers
- Campbell's® Food Service products

For a complete listing of participating Campbell products, visit the website at labelsforeducation.com.

The following pages give a complete listing of what products are eligible for collection and what to save for collection. You can have your child return the labels to school to place in the collection bins located in the elementary wing and in the elementary office.

If you have any questions about this year's Labels For Education collection drive, please contact our program coordinator, Janet, at 947-4428.

Thank you for your support!

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Football Sportsmanship Ratings

By Mr. Al Steen

At the conclusion of each sports season the Iowa High School Athletic Association, have officials rate each school's players, coaches, and fans on their sportsmanship. Listed below are our school's ratings from 31 officials:

1-Outstanding; 2-Above Average; 3-Average; 4-Below Average; 5-Unsatisfactory

Hinton Coaches	—	1.16
Hinton Players	—	1.03
Hinton Spectator Rating	—	1.10

For comparison purposes listed below are the Top 10% and Bottom 10% categories:

	Top 10%	Bottom 10%
Coaches	1.00-1.11	2.00-3.11
Players	1.00-1.05	1.72-3.22
Spectators	1.00-1.07	1.77-2.67

Congratulations to our players on being rated in the top 10% of all the schools in the state of Iowa! Our coaches have done a great job of instilling sportsmanship with our football team. As you can see our coaches are within .05 of being rated in the top 10%. They truly are role models for our students. Our fans are within .03 of the top 10% of all fans in the state, what a great accomplishment!

Sportsmanship is a priority of our district. It is obvious that, by working together, we are making an impact with our students. We continue to need your help. As we enter the winter sports season, we need to ensure that, as adults, we model the sportsmanship we expect from our students. We need to model positive cheering for our teams, opposing teams, and officials. We need to remember students are watching how we, the adults, act during our ball games. Your help is greatly appreciated. By working together we will continue to be **A Community Dedicated To Developing Responsible Life Long Learners Prepared For Future Challenges.**