

# Building for the Future

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Hinton Community School  
Hinton, Iowa 51024  
February 2004

## School Infrastructure Local Option Sales Tax

*By Mr. Al Steen*

On Tuesday, February 10, residents of Plymouth County will vote on a proposed one-cent sales tax for school infrastructure, commonly called SILO. The purpose of a SILO is to provide an alternative to property taxes for funding school buildings and capital expenditures and/or to provide property tax relief by applying proceeds to existing or future bond issues.

At the November 17, 2003 school board meeting, the Hinton Community School Board passed a revenue purpose statement regarding a successful passage of the February 10, 2004 election for a local option tax. The revenue purpose statement states the Hinton Community School District of Hinton, Iowa, shall expend any revenues generated by successful passage of a local option tax as follows:

*“School infrastructure projects and needs of the Hinton Community School District: other authorized expenditures and purposes as permitted by law and designated by the Hinton Community School District; and for payment or retirement of outstanding bonds previously issued for school infrastructure purposes and the payment or retirement of new bonds issued for school infrastructure purposes issued under Iowa Code section 422B.4”*

A SILO sales tax in Plymouth County will generate approximately \$330/student per year for ten years. The Hinton Community School District will

receive \$189,222/year for school infrastructure.

A community facilities committee identified many infrastructure needs including such projects as: science labs, refurbishing of restrooms, classroom renovations such as improved lighting, technology needs, and roof replacement.

A current example of a project needing immediate attention is the roof replacement over the kitchen/multipurpose room area. Over the last two years, we have been investigating our metal decking that supports this area. We have discovered the decking needs to be replaced, with preliminary estimates for the project in the \$178,000 range. This type of project is typically paid from Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) funds. Our PPEL levy is at the very minimum and generates \$43,000 per year. SILO monies can be used for these types of projects as well, as those previously mentioned.

The SILO sales tax has passed in 59 counties in Iowa, with 67% of all sales in Iowa already subject to the SILO. Counties around Plymouth County with the SILO include Woodbury, Ida, Sioux, O’Brien, and Cherokee has a vote on the issue in February.

Many items are exempt from a SILO tax. Examples of such items include food, prescriptions, hospital services, gasoline, automobiles, seed, farm equipment, feed, and hotels.

Please take the time to exercise your right to vote on February 10, 2004. If you have any questions on the SILO, please contact Al Steen, Superintendent at 947-4329.

## Resource Follies?

*By Ms. Peg Larsen*

Now that I have your attention! Everything is going quite well in the resource room 7-12. We are settling in and are now used to the schedule. I put the schedule on the board for the kids but really, it is for me. Do not tell them.

We have 20 students who come in to the resource room at various times. Students are mainstreamed for most of their subjects but are in the resource room full program if they need it. We like to mainstream or include as much as possible. The students are also in the resource room for a guided LA. The students come in here for tests or help with a project. We do have three student computers and, believe me, the students really use them. We also have the Kurzweil Computer program to help with reading and other subjects.

Every student is required to be in the Accelerated Reader program. That is why you see on AR with a circle around it in their planner. I encourage the students to read at least 20 minutes outside of school every day. Wow, with DEAR and reading at home, books can be finished in no time!

Speaking of planners, have you looked at them lately? They are neat and we are encouraging using them as a life long skill to aid in organization.

If you really want to help in other ways –send Kleenex! We go through lots of tissue and frequently buy some out of my own pocket. I admit I am a softy. I keep encouraging students to wash their hands with soap and water especially after they use the restroom. In other words, I am trying to keep sickness to a minimum.

Stop in anytime and see us in action!

## Round Up

*By Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Cook and Mrs. Joanning*

Hinton Round-Up will be held on Wednesday, April 7, 2004. There will be two sessions; 9-11 AM and 1-3 PM. Children must be 5 years old by September 15, 2004 to be eligible for either Discovergarten or Kindergarten. If interested in having your child attend round up, please call Janet Held in the elementary office at 947-4428. More information will follow in the March newsletter.

## Students Share for the Holidays

*By Mrs. Mary Daniels*

The character Word of the Week for December 8-12 was “share,” and students throughout the school demonstrated its meaning by bringing food items to stock the shelves of the Siouxland Food Pantry. The food collection is a collaborative effort of KMEG and Siouxland schools each year. By December, the shelves at the food pantry begin to look bare, and heading into winter, the need for assistance to families is the greatest.

Hinton students in Discovergarten through grade twelve joined others all over Plymouth and Woodbury counties to restock items like macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, and soup.



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## Thanks for Your Support

*By Mrs. Lisa Schindler*

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 the money raised will be used for the playground, school and teacher requests and needs.

In December, the prizes were awarded to the students who were top collectors. A \$50.00 mall gift certificate was awarded to Austin Sitzmann for top collector of the school and a \$35.00 mall gift certificate was awarded to Hannah McCalmont for runner up collector of the school. The following students received \$15.00 mall gift certificates for being top collectors of their grade: McKenzie Buck, Alex Schwaderer, Chase Eickholt, CJ Holmes, Tyler Yates, Allen Hamil, Alex Schindler, Amanda Schindler, Alicia Jessip, Andrea Groves and Kayla Schroeder. A \$10.00 mall gift certificate was awarded to the following students who were runner-up collectors of their grade: Carlie Siders, Tiffany Miller, Addison Bak, Courtney Seibold, Jason VanderKooi, Cole Barbee, Austin Schwaderer, Zachary Yoerger, and Carissa Courtright. The grade that received the Papa Murphy's pizza and pop party for collecting the most money on a per student basis was the first grade.

Congratulation to all our winners and students who participated in the Spelling Bee. We could not have had such a successful fundraiser without the help and support from everyone and our thanks goes out to you. Watch for details on our next fundraiser, the school carnival in March.

The HPA will meet on February 19, 2004 at 7:00 PM in the Tech Center. On the agenda will be the planning of the school carnival. Everyone is welcome to attend.



## New Faces

*By Elementary Office*

Students that are teachers . . . confused? Do not worry. For the next twelve weeks, Hinton Community School will have two Morningside students learning and practicing what it takes to become a teacher. Ms. Kelly Smith will be working with Mr. Dehoff in the fourth grade and Mr. Brett Lyon will be with Mr. Skamser. Ms. Smith is doing her student teaching in elementary education while Mr. Lyon is a physical education major. Hinton welcomes them both and wishes them the best of luck in their educational journey.

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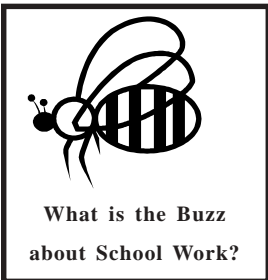


Mr. Lyon & Ms. Smith

## Reading Challenge

*By Ms. Sue Martens*

During the month of February, the staff at Hinton Community School will be conducting their second Annual Reading Challenge. The staff feels that reading is one of the most critical skills that we teach and is important to every field of employment today and to adult life in general. We, as a staff, believe that we should serve as good role models for our students and are thus holding the reading challenge. Beginning February 1, staff members will be counting the number of pages they read during their leisure time. The pages will be tallied weekly and posted on a barometer in the hallway. We hope to impress our students with the reading habits of the staff and inspire them to increase their own reading.



What is the Buzz  
about School Work?

## Homework

*By Ms. Sue Martens*

Students are assigned homework on a daily basis as part of their total schoolwork. The amount of homework increases as the child moves up through the grades. By the time students are in the middle grades, they can expect one to two hours of homework per night. High school students can expect two to three hours of homework per night. The amount of homework students actually bring home may vary with the study time given

them during the school day and the classes they are taking. Research has shown that there is a direct correlation between the amount of homework and extra study a student does and the student's GPA.

What role should parents play in homework? Here are some suggestions:

- Talk to your child each night about his/her schoolwork and assignments.
- Encourage your child to bring books and assignments home.
- Provide your child with a planner in which to write down assignments.
- Provide a quiet place for your child to work at home.
- Set a scheduled time each night for homework completion. If he/she has no work, insist the time be used for reading.
- Provide support for your child if he/she has a question but do not solve the problems, write the papers, complete the study guides, etc. for him/her.

High school activities and after-school jobs frequently interfere with study time and students may find themselves having to stay up late in order to complete assignments. Impress upon your children that school is their main job right now and they may need to cut back on work hours or the number of activities they are in if their schoolwork is suffering. Help them to develop good organizational and time management skills that will help them now and in later life.

## Our B.E.S.T. Year

*By Ms. Sue Martens*

It is hard to believe that a full semester has come and gone and that we are in the third quarter of our B.E.S.T. school year. This quarter's theme is BEST in School Work. We expect our students to be prepared for class, to participate, and to complete their schoolwork as assigned.

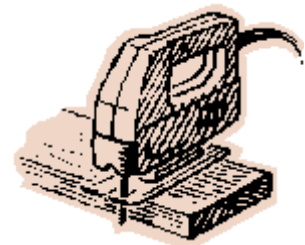
On January 16 the students were introduced to this quarter's theme. After DEAR time student completed a rubric evaluation of last quarter's Best in Behavior theme and then spent some time brainstorming what Best in School Work would look like. This quarter's theme is expressed as "What's the Buzz about School Work?" with the following categories: Bee There; Bee Accountable; and Bee Confident. We hope that all students will make an effort to do their best on their schoolwork this quarter.

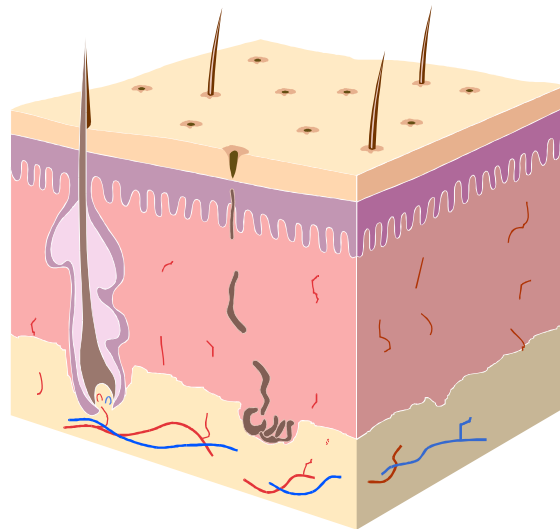
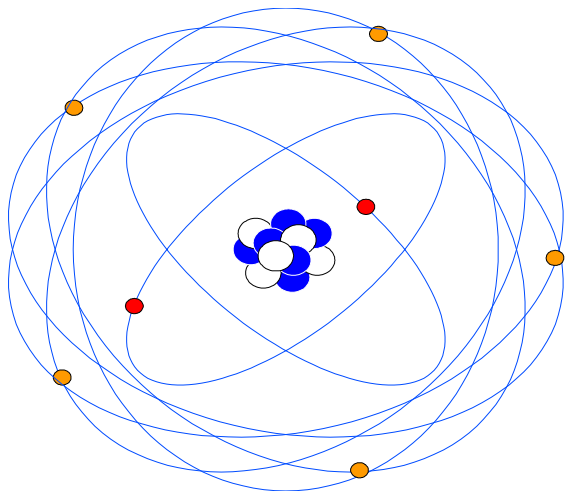
## Industrial Arts News

*Mr. Arie Reekers*

By the time this newsletter is delivered, the second semester will be well on its way. The first semester ended with many students getting a great start on their woodworking projects. The junior high has built a variety of shelves and clocks; the high school has ongoing woodworking projects, including entertainment centers, computer desks, and wardrobe cabinets. The metals classes built toolboxes, guitar holders, and flowerpot holders. The freshmen are finished with one semester of Cad and will start woodworking.

There is a new Cad program, which was used first semester, that displays 3D drawings along with 2D. Remember to watch the calendar and mark the Fine Arts Display. The students will be displaying their work for the year in Industrial Arts and Art.





## High School Biology and Chemistry.

*By Mr. Mark Wilson*

The start of the New Year finds Biology students finishing units on photosynthesis and respiration. Key objectives for these units include studying the two reactions that make up process of photosynthesis. Also studied were the two reactions that complete the process of respiration. A key components was the understanding the functions of cell organelles in these two differing processes. Where as the chloroplast converts and stores energy in compounds, the mitochondria release energy from compounds. Future units, of study, will include the study of DNA and protein synthesis.

Chemistry students are in the process of completing a unit on formula writing. Students are determining the differences between monatomic ions, polyatomic ions and the oxidation numbers associated with these ions. Students are using this information to construct balanced chemical formulas. Our next unit will include the study of the mole. No, not the animal, but the chemical mole established by Avogadro. Students will learn the importance of the number  $6.023 \times 10^{23}$ .

A question to ask your student is she/he actively participating in DEAR? If not, why not? Success with ITED, ACT, or SAT test scores, most often times, relates to a student's reading ability. DEAR time is a period, in the school day, where a student can improve his/her reading abilities. Just like any sport, the more you practice the better you become. I strongly encourage all parents to encourage their students to use this time effectively!

