

The WARREN PRIDE

April 2003

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The WARREN PRIDE is compiled & edited
by Sue Ellingson. Please call 466-3331
with information.
Email: s_elling@se-warren.k12.ia.us

Military Support Project

As part of our ongoing service learning activities for students, we would like to begin a letter writing & care package project for active local military service men and women from our area. If you have a family member or know of someone from the Southeast Warren District who has been activated, please send us their name and address along with the name of their local family member.



Our principals will assign each armed forces person to a classroom and the students will plan their correspondence. Through this activity we hope our students will be more aware of world events and will experience an opportunity for caring and citizenship.

This information can be sent to: LuAnn Ohnemus, Southeast Warren School, 16331 Tyler St., Liberty Center, IA, 50145, or email luann@se-warren.k12.ia.us, or to Lynnea Young at lyoung@se-warren.k12.ia.us.

Submitted by LuAnn Ohnumus

Can & Bottle Drive

Help support the Southeast Warren Spanish Club!! The Southeast Warren Spanish club will be having a recyclable can & bottle drive on Saturday April 12. We are raising money to help pay for our trip to Mexico.



If you have cans you would like to be picked up or have some you want to drop off, please contact Mr. Cerwinski at 466-3305 or talk to a Spanish Club member. Gracias por tu ayuda! (Thanks for your help!)

Tim Cerwinski, Spanish Club Advisor



The SEW Jr/Sr High
Drama Department
Spring Play!

Saturday, April 26 - 7:00 PM

Dinner before the show - time to be announced.

Sunday, April 27 - 2:00 PM

Dessert reception after the show.

From your District Superintendent...

Susan Garton

This month's report focuses on the general fund, the part of the district's budget that covers all of the instructional programs and salaries and benefits for employees. This document has already been shared with the Board of Education and staff members.

While this budget report clearly reveals a decline in the financial resources of the district, I want to emphasize that there is NOT a budget crisis at this point. We are in much better shape than many other Iowa districts. However, the numbers point out the necessity of careful planning and controlled spending.



The major question on the minds of everyone at school these days is: Will we have to reduce staff? The answer: Planning for staff reductions is necessary. The district must protect itself by planning for staff reduction, since the legal deadline for notification of teachers to be laid off is April 30th. We do not know yet the amount of the salary and benefits package for teachers. Until these costs are known, we must plan for salary increases similar to the negotiated packages of the last several years.

Neither the board nor the superintendent want to reduce staff. Our stated goal is to retain the talented teachers we have in the district through continual improvements in salaries. Last year, we gave one of the largest salary increases in the state. Our salary schedule is no longer the worst in the area; in fact, it now ranks in the top half of our comparability group. But this progress came with a price. This year we must be more cautious.

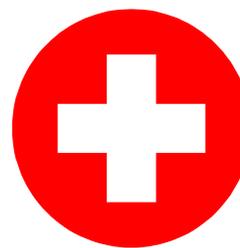
The board reluctantly voted 4-1 to plan for reduction in force. Each board member stated a clear desire to avoid reduction in force if at all possible. At the same time, board members were vocal in their support of the district's professional staff.

These are tough economic times. Anyone who has read the headlines of the Des Moines School District budget problems is naturally fearful of the same kind of scenario here in Southeast Warren. Our budget is much smaller than the Des Moines district's. An unexpected expenditure of \$50,000 can make a huge difference in our budget. This month's budget report lists a number of unanticipated expenses during the past year. The effect of these expenses, combined with the costs of the negotiated salaries and benefits, has been to reduce the cash reserve of the district. While this is bad news, it isn't disastrous. With reduced spending and cautious planning, the district will continue to be financially sound.

Please take time to read the budget report on pages 3-6 in this newsletter. Phone or e-mail with questions. I welcome the opportunity to discuss the budget (or other concerns) with you.

Susan Garton, Superintendent

FCCLA Blood Drive



To benefit the Red Cross

April 10, 2003

8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Open to the community.

Now is a great time to help
our nation's blood supply!

Call the High School office
for more information.
641-466-3331

Southeast Warren Alumni Association

Officers:

President

Debbie (Hommer) Miller
(641) 534-4832
millerd@iowatelecom.net

Vice President

Sharon (Snuggs) Spear
(641) 466-3379

Secretary

Shari Smith
(515) 961-0758

Treasurer

Norb Schaefer
(641) 534-4257

Mark your calendars for the
SEW Alumni Banquet on
June 14, 2003

Budget Report Summary

The district's overall financial condition has deteriorated significantly in the last year. Each of the key indicators contained in this report declined. Much of the cause for this decline rests with annual increases in teachers' salaries during years when income and new money were showing annual decreases.



Unusual transportation expenses also contributed to the deterioration of the district's financial condition. In the past year, the district purchased two new buses, two vans, and replaced two engines. Expenses for tires and other repairs were higher than in past years, as the district achieved a safe, dependable fleet.

Another contributing factor was the 4.3 reduction in state aid last year, which meant \$96,000 less for the district. While the district was able to generate savings of \$50,000 to offset the loss of the \$96,000 in state aid, the loss of \$46,000 fueled the downward slide of the district's cash balance.

At the same time as the district's financial condition is deteriorating we are also facing declining state-wide and national conditions. The stock market is depressed. Corporations continue to merge and lay off employees. The state has reduced services and has mandated furloughs for some employees. These conditions, combined with the nation's readiness for war, create a general sense of anxiety in all matters relating to economic conditions.

In our local communities, we see indicators which mirror the state and national conditions: increased movement of families in and out of the district; increased number of vacant and "for sale" houses; more unemployed; and decreased contributions from the public to the school's activities. More parents are carrying overdue balances in their lunch or day care accounts. State payments to the school for day care and other kinds of aid are often late.

The district's major financial challenge continues to be the ability to balance declining general fund resources with the increasing wage and cost pressures.

*Submitted by Susan Garton
Superintendent*

Summary Charts of Key Indicators

The district's cash balance:

Year 2000	Year 2001	Year 2002	Year 2003 Projected
\$864.32	\$840.35	\$547,336	

New money to the district:

Year 2000-01	Year 2001-02	Year 2002-03	Year 2003-04
\$1,089	0	\$9,471	\$13,760

These figures are provided annually by the Iowa Department of Education.

Salary & Benefit Negotiated Costs for Teachers:

2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
\$64,122.31	\$63,362.87	\$88,520.16	

The above figures do not include specials. To approximate the total costs of the negotiated package, add \$20,000 to the annual amount

Percent of Salaries & Benefits Compared to Total Expenditures:

	2000-0	2001-02	2002-03 (budgeted)
Salaries/Benefits	\$ 2,852.75	\$3,010,211.00	\$3,257,281.00
Total Expenditures	\$4,156,340.00	\$4,453,433.00	\$4,557,419.00
% of Budget	68.60%	67.60%	71.50%

Revenue:

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Source			
Property Taxes	\$ 1,059,282.42	\$ 1,168,997.68	\$ 1,334,207.55
State Aid	\$ 2,227,176.00	\$ 2,072,603.00	\$ 2,219,783.00
Instructional S.	\$ 42,220.00	\$ 33,570.00	\$ 31,351.00
IS Income Surtax	\$ 129,058.00	\$ 139,863.00	\$ 133,469.00
Total	\$ 3,457,736.42	\$ 3,415,033.68	\$ 3,718,810.55

Tax Rates:

	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
General	16.51995	12.95209	12.373.02
Management	0.24989	0.49562	0.63991
PPEL	0.33	0.32967	0.33
Debt Service		3.92129	3.66951
Total	17.09984	17.69867	17.01244

The solvency Ratio:

2000	2001	2002	2003 - Projected
12%	11.30%	3.40%	

The district's target ratio: 5-10%

Formula:
$$\frac{\text{Unreserved Undesignated Fund Balance (UUFB)}}{\text{Total Revenue}}$$

General Fund & Cash Balance

The purpose of this report is to help readers understand the components of the General Fund and the resultant cash balance.

The General Fund covers the general operating expenditures for the district's educational program. Specifically, salaries and benefits, equipment, materials and supplies, utilities, tuition, legal services, contracted services, and purchased services are all paid from the general fund.

Included in the general fund are various categorical funds from the state/federal government and grant funds from competitive grant applications.

Title I	\$46,117	REAP	\$33,000
Title II	\$ 2,400	ComServe	\$ 7,500
Title IV	\$ 3,667	Eisenhower	\$ 4,000
Title V	\$ 2,749	STAR	\$25,000
IDEA, Part B	\$13,815	Success 4	\$14,000
Medicaid	\$ 300		
Phase III	\$12,012		
Teacher Quality	\$40,298		
Mentoring	\$ 5,200		

At this time of the year, the general fund becomes a major topic of discussion because negotiations are about to begin with the Teachers' Association to determine salaries, benefits, and contract language for next year. These negotiations have historically impacted the general budget by increasing the money needed to cover salaries and benefits.

The cash balance is the cash position of the school district, based upon the amount of cash left in the General Fund. At the end of each fiscal year (June 30th), the Board Secretary reports the cash balance among the computations on the Certified Annual Report (CAR).

The cash balance fluctuates from year to year, based upon the expenditures of the district and the amount of state aid received. In the table below, note the cash balance was \$864,323 in the year 2000, and it remained nearly as high for 2001. By 2002, the cash balance fell to \$547,336. The projection for next year is lower.

The district's cash balance:

Year 2000	Year 2001	Year 2002	Year 2003 Projected
\$864.323	\$840,351	\$547,336	

How did the balance fall so quickly? A number of factors contributed to the decline of the balance. The negotiated increase for teachers' salaries and benefits for the year 2001-02 was \$63,362, but the amount of new money to the district was zero. The following year, the negotiated increase for teachers' salaries and benefits (for this year) was \$88,520 while the new money available to the district was \$9,471. During the same year, state aid was reduced to the district in the amount of \$96,000.

The district has done an admirable job of increasing teachers' salaries in order to attract and retain qualified teachers. Last year \$750 was added to the base salary for beginning teachers, a move which put Southeast Warren above the starting salary of many other rural districts. The district achieved these salary increases by spending down its cash reserve. With the cash balance declining over the past two years, the district must now position itself to achieve stability and growth.

There are few remedies to reverse the decline of the cash balance. Iowa districts have two options to increase their spending authority: 1) increased Allowable Growth, and 2) increased number of students enrolled in the district.

Southeast Warren FFA



Goat Day is coming up on April 1st. On Goat Day, you can pay a fee to send a goat to someone. The person who receives the goat must pay to send it away, or they will have to keep it for 20 minutes. What a great way to celebrate April Fool's Day!

Our FFA Banquet is Friday April 25th, at 7:00p.m. Dinner will be at 7:00 p.m. followed by the award presentations. If you have been involved in helping our FFA you are welcome to come. Please contact Scott Dirx at 466-3331.

We held elections on February 5, 2003. The following are the new officers for 2003-2004.

President: **Dusty Dykstra**
 Vice President: **Garrett Kaldenberg**
 Secretary: **Nathan Meyers**
 Treasurer: **Derek Hommer**
 Reporter: **Tabetha Dollison**
 Sentinel: **Karen Manser**

Our FFA sent a Conduct of Meetings team to CDE's in Leon. They received a silver award. Members that participated were **Derek Hommer, Chris Miller, Theresa Renfelt, Michael Bird, Ryan Humble, Jordan Dittmer, and Nathan Meyers.**

*Submitted by
 Karen Manser & Tabetha Dollison
 FFA Reporters*

Continued on page 5

Allowable Growth

Allowable growth is the percent increase in state funding; the rate of allowed growth determines the increase in the state cost per pupil. For the current school year, districts received an additional \$45 per student and are scheduled to receive an additional \$91 dollars per student for the 2003-04 school year. The legislature recently approved the allowable growth rate for 2005 at 2 %, which allows an additional \$93 per student or a new state cost per pupil of \$4,741.

The Allowable Growth calculation provides additional funding for districts based upon the district’s cost per pupil last year and this year. The formula: Last year’s minimum district cost per pupil + this year’s allowable growth. For example, last year’s minimum cost per pupil was \$4,512 and this year’s allowable growth is 1%, then 1% times \$4,512 = \$45.12 rounded to \$45. **\$4,512 + \$45 = \$4557**, this year’s minimum cost per pupil.

Enrollment Projections

The possibility of increasing funding through increasing the number of students is not viable for rural districts, where enrollments are projected to decline. Historically, the Southeast Warren District has shown a long term pattern of declining enrollment. The table below presents the official DE enrollment projection for the district.

DE enrollment projections for SEW

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
606	606	597	596	587	584

Other Elements of the General Fund

Within the General Fund, there are other funds designated for a specific purpose. These include funds for Talented and Gifted Education, Special Education, At-Risk, and the Instructional Support Levy. The Instructional Support Levy is funded through a board-approved levy. The other funds are included in the General Fund with budgets based a formula for numbers of students served in the district and other factors determined by the state.

Instructional Support Levy

The current Instructional Support Levy was approved by the board in March 2002, as a five year levy. (If this levy is voter approved, it can be for up to ten years.)

The Instructional Support Levy will generate approximately \$237,185 for the 2002-03 fiscal year. Following is a summary of the proposed expenditures for these funds.

Curriculum Director and Technology Support	\$75,000
Instructional Supplies, K-12	\$38,000
Textbooks, K-12	\$45,000
Software, printer supplies, tech repair & main.	\$25,000
Copying	\$35,000
Communications	\$20,000
TOTAL	\$238,000

The purpose of the Instructional Support Levy is to provide additional funding for school districts. The funds flow to the Instructional Support Levy from state aid and a combination of property tax or property tax and income surtax. The funds may be used for any purpose allowed under the rules for the General Fund. These funds cannot be used for drop out prevention programs, talented and gifted programs, physical plant or equipment, management levy uses, or special education negative balances.

Continued on page 6

Lunch Accounts

If your family account has a negative balance after April 15th, students will not be able to charge meals until the account is paid.

Statements have been sent home with the youngest student of each family every month. If you have not received a statement, or are unsure of your balance, please call Sue Ellingson or Sharon Isley at 641-466-3331, or send them an e-mail.

E-mail:

s_elling@se-warren.k12.ia.us

sisley@se-warren.k12.ia.us

Refurbished computers are available from the SEW Jr/Sr High Technology Dept.



Please call Mike Tierney at 641-466-3331 for more information

*From your Junior/Senior High Principal...
Terry Gladfelter*

This past week I had opportunity to provide the school board with some encouraging information as a result of the generous efforts of the community and the athletic boosters. My report consisted of the disbursement of the funds for the activity accounts so far this year.

The community has given \$4570 this year. The following chart shows how the money has been distributed. About half of the money contributed was specifically designated for certain activities and half came in to be used where needed. Many times the question is asked about the undesignated funds as to a preference where they should be placed. The response is almost always the same – use the funds where needed. To that I say a big THANK YOU. I tried to split the undesignated funds between athletics and activities and things worked out pretty evenly.



The athletic boosters have also agreed to financially support the athletic programs through a \$5000 contribution. These funds and community donations have helped place the activity accounts in the best financial condition they have been in for several years. In these days of financial concerns, my appreciation goes out to all who have helped to put students and student activities as a matter of priority.

Account	Undesignated	Designated by contributor
Primary Bldg.		\$295.00
Intermed. Bldg.		\$155.00
Jr-Sr High Bldg.		\$50.00
Baseball	\$385.00	\$200.00
Basketball-Boys		\$25.00
Basketball-Girls		\$33.00
Cross Country		\$208.00
Football		\$25.00
Golf		\$50.00
Softball		\$150.00
Track		\$84.00
Wrestling	\$700.00	\$175.00
Jr. High Sports		\$225.00
General Athletics		\$125.00
Band	\$400.00	\$145.00
Flags	\$150.00	
Vocal		\$135.00
NHS		\$10.00
Speech		\$25.00
Art Club		\$45.00
Class of '07		\$50.00
Class of '08		\$25.00
FBLA	\$700.00	
Subtotal	\$2,335.00	\$2,235.00
Total Combined		\$4,570.00
Other Donations		
Art Department		\$50.00
Fine Arts Boosters		\$20.00

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Natasha Cooper, one of our Social Studies teachers at the High School. Mrs. Cooper was chosen along with 14 other teachers out of several hundred applicants from throughout the United States for a two-week tour of Germany.

The Goethe-Institut Inter Nationes out of Atlanta, Georgia will sponsor Mrs. Cooper on this trip. The trip, lasting from June 28 to July 12, will focus on Germany and what has transpired since the re-unification. Mrs. Cooper will then incorporate what she has learned into her social studies curriculum for next year.

Submitted by Terry Gladfelter

General Fund, Continued from page 5

Special Education

The formula for special education is based upon the number of students served in the district. In recent years, the number of special education students at Southeast Warren has grown dramatically. Now, nearly 25% of the junior and senior high school student body has been identified as requiring special education services. This is a much larger percentage than other districts. On March 1, 2003, the district was responsible for 91 students with a weighted count of 97.22.

A special education negative balance could cause local taxes to increase. If the budget for special education is insufficient to serve the number of students in the district, the district is forced to "tax back," that is, recoup the negative balance through increased taxes. In Iowa, districts are not allowed to carry negative balances for special education from year to year. Districts must tax to correct the negative balance.

*Submitted by Susan Garton
Superintendent*

From your **Intermediate Principal...**

Cindy Butler

We are heading into the last nine weeks of school. The weather is nice, the days becoming longer, and ball season is here. It is easy for kids to become so involved in spring activities that schoolwork begins to slide. Homework gets pushed to the back burner and those late night ballgames mean – no time.

What can students and parents do to prevent school grades from slipping during this time:

1. Make use of the assignment calendar. Students need to make sure all assignments and due dates are written down. Parents can look over the calendar and due dates, then help their child plan a time to complete assignments.
2. Don't procrastinate. Bigger jobs are more manageable if you break them down into smaller tasks. Putting off a big task now will only cause panic and late nights later.
3. Use time at school wisely. Many teachers offer time to complete assignments during class.
4. Ask questions. Students should always make sure they understand the directions for assignments before taking them home. An assignment can be completed more efficiently if the directions are understood.

Don't let spring fever bring down your grades. Enjoy ball season, but plan to keep up with schoolwork.

Cindy Butler, Intermediate Principal

Science Night

Thursday March 13 was Science Night at the Intermediate Center. All the students had projects on display. The 4th grade designed posters on the 5 Senses and Diseases. The 6th grade had rock collections and an experiment on density. The 5th grade had the Science Fair.

Themes for projects ranged from what is the best cleaner for clothing and carpets, to how a lemon or potato can run a clock. All the projects were very impressive. The students did an excellent job completing a project of this size. There were several steps involved and took some time to complete.

A big thank you goes out to all the parents for the help they gave their child on completing a project, keeping them organized, getting the project to school, attending the showing, and last but not least, helping with the clean up. It was greatly appreciated.

Submitted by Donna Clay



Band News



Instrumental music students from 5th through 12th grade performed to a packed house Tuesday, March 11th. It was a night of just plain fun music with an unforgettable finale by the high school band. All bands performed superbly and I am extremely proud of each of them!!! Thanks to all who attended the concert.

We have a busy season ahead of us. Jazz band performs at the dedication of the Milo Community Center Saturday, April 5th, at approximately 4:00 to 4:30 P.M. If you like big band music, this is the place to be.

Class A Solo/Small Ensemble Music Festival is March 29th at SEW. Students performing are Brian Heemstra and Josh Nutting, trumpet solos; Theresa Renfeldt, clarinet solo; Tabetha Dollison, Audra Drish, and Chelsea Wadle, woodwind trio; and Chelsea Wadle and Ashley Jones, clarinet duet.

Friday, May 9th, is State Large Group Contest. Thursday, May 15, is our own solo contest for grades 5 through 8. The end of the school year will be a busy one!

*Willis VanderLinden
Band Instructor*

From your **Primary Principal...**
Charlotte Weaklend

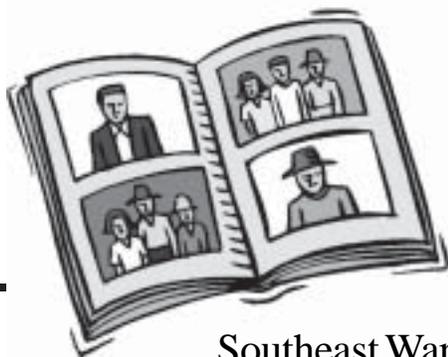
I am proud to announce that our Partners in Education group is sponsoring a special parenting seminar entitled Smart Discipline for Parents for Thursday, April 24th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Primary multi-purpose room. The information shared at this seminar has benefited over 50,000 kids in the past four years and is one of America's most well attended parenting workshops.

Parents and grandparents in the community are invited to this free two-hour seminar, which will entertain and inform as it teaches the Smart Discipline System, plus helps caregivers insure that our children grow up with positive self-esteem.



The speaker, Jim Garnett, is a Nationally Certified Parent Trainer and brings to each seminar 30 years experience in family counseling. With a delightful blend of humor and honesty he describes the problems parents face, and offers practical solutions. Parents already know what doesn't work. We are asking them to come and hear what does! Please pre-register by calling 942-6216.

Charlotte Weaklend, Primary Principal



Southeast Warren Elementary Yearbook Order Form

It is time to order your SE Warren Elementary Yearbook. The books will be similar to the books we have offered in the years past and will be approximately 16 pages with pictures from Preschool through Sixth grade. Please note you have a choice of a Black and White or a Full Color book. Orders with payment are due Thursday, April 17th. Thank you!

Black and White Yearbook _____ (#ordered) x **\$4.00** = _____ (total due)

Full Color Yearbook _____ (#ordered) x **\$10.00** = _____ (total due)

 Student's name

 Teacher's name

 Parent Signature

**2003-2004
 Preschool Sign up**



It is time to start signing up for Preschool. If your child will be 4 by September 15, 2003, they are eligible for preschool.

To sign your child up, call the Primary Center at 942-6216. We will need the following information: parents' names, address, phone number, child's name, child's birthday, and which section of preschool you would like your child to attend.

Sessions Available:

M/W	8:45-11:15 A.M.
T/Th	8:45-11:15 A.M.
T/Th	12:30-3:00 P.M.

The cost for preschool at this time is \$46.00 a month. Free and reduced prices are offered if you qualify.

Submitted by Teresa Schneider

Once again, the second and third graders at the Primary Building have been reading lots of good books for the Accelerated Reader program.

CONGRATULATIONS!! These are our Super Readers as of 3/14/03.

Super Reader I

Gabe Combs
Kane Ellenwood
Colbi Hunter
Dana Martin
Destini Miller
Logan Putz
Scott Isley
Joseph Johnson
Ashley Clay
Torie Hommer
Zach Quick
Alex Sudbrock
Kayleigh Chapman
Dustin Dowell

Super Reader II

Austin Allen
Austin Agan
Amy Williams
Coltyn Hunter
Bobbi Lawton
Dallas Stanger
Cassandra Mosher
Morgan Lawler

Super Reader III

Cassidy Hembry
Allysa Spear
Jordyn Halls
Spencer Williams
Niki Schnathorst
Celeste Welshons
Carrie Neer
Christina Dittmer
Daniel Hagen
Ryan Putz



Super Reader IV

Jacob Anders
Cheyanna Shannon
Aaron Coffman
Lindsey Plummer
Collin Judkins

Super Reader V

Amber Sanders
Jonie Meling

Super Reader VI

Madison Hall
Matthew Davis

Super Reader VII

Zach Hart

Advanced Reader 2

Alissa Young

Advanced Reader III

Jon Anders

Kindergarten Roundup



Below is a list of children that are eligible for Kindergarten Roundup for the 2003-2004 school year. If you know a child that will be five years old on or before September 15th, please call the Primary school at 641-942-6216.

Mitchell Agan
Tanner Allen
Olivia Anders
Tiffany Barr
Reagan Champ
Kelli Chapman
Maverick DeBlicke
Everett Dittmer
Morgen Greif
Harli Herold
Travis Hobbs
Lance Hoch
Seth Huffaker
Christian Jager
Joshua Jimenez
Hannah Judd
Keetan Lawler
Alexandra Lerch
Nicholas Lewis
Madison Newbury
Tyler Nickum
Vance Ohnemus
Alec Pierce
Baylea Polito
Walker Porterfield
Ilyse Putz
Kelsey Scharck
Brooke Seufferer
Bryant Seufferer
Luke Ulin
Jill Williams
Kylie Wolfkill
Jordan Wood
Tanner Worthington

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Meetings

Athletic Boosters

Next meeting - April 9 - 7:00 PM @ Jr/Sr High School

Children First Forum - 1st Monday of the month

Next meeting - April 7 - 7:00 PM @ Primary Center

Fine Arts Boosters - 1st Wednesday of month

Next meeting - May 7 - 6:30 pm, @ Jr/Sr High Band room

School Board Meeting

Next Meeting - April 14 - 7:00 PM @ Intermediate Center



2002-2003 Inaugural Bowling Season

Southeast Warren completed its the inaugural bowling season on March 1st. The season was culminated with the girl's team completing in the state bowling tournament. The girls finished 16th of the 18 class A teams. The team rolled its highest total pin count of the year. The Southeast Warren girls also were the Pride of Iowa Conference Champions of the East Division. The boys team competed in the Sub-State Tournament in Red Oak, finishing with a season high pin count, but were unable to advance to the state tournament; only sub-state winner moved on to state.



Members of the girl's bowling team were **Nycole Hart, Amber Lamb, Liz Lawrence, Theresa Renfeldt, and Sydney Schumann.** Members of the boy's team were **Joey Clay, Chad hart, Alex Hayes, Justin Hunerdosse, Josh Lutz, Mike Mason, Nathan Meyers, Ian Mitzelfelt, Danny Moser, Kris Palmer, Chad Ripperger, Devon Ripperger, Scott Smith, and Donnie Wright.**

Team Member	Season Avg	High Game	High Series
Girls			
Nycole Hart	100	131	237
Amber Lamb	101	126	229
Liz Lawrence	92	137	266
Thersa Renfeldt	127	157	288
Sydney Schumann	94	146	240
Boys			
Joey Clay	109	150	276
Chad Hart	96	111	193
Alex Hayes	105	127	234
Josh Lutz	126	155	268
Mike Mason	104	134	259
Nathan Meyers	114	136	223
Ian Mitzelfelt	116	138	258
Danny Moser	93	130	240
Chad Ripperger	112	134	252
Devon Ripperger	112	141	264

I would like to thank **Barb Weeks** for taking on the role of assistant coach. Her willingness to give of her time and to share her expertise was a vital part of the teams' success. Also, a thank you to the **Palmers**, proprietors of **Indian Lanes** in Indianola, for sponsoring and hosting team practices and meets.

I am greatly proud of both teams' efforts. Their eagerness and enthusiasm towards the sport was very exciting to see. I look forward to next season and the continued growth of this new sport.

Chuck Jones
Southeast Warren Bowling Coach

Athletic Boosters



**Next meeting
April 9th, 7:00 P.M.
at the
Jr/Sr High School**

Fine Arts Boosters

**There will be no April meeting
of the Fine Arts Boosters.
Next meeting is May 7, 2003.**

Fine Arts Boosters News...

The garment bags for the Choir robes have arrived. They will help protect the robes when the Choir travels to contests. We hope you enjoyed the Vocal and Band Concerts and the refreshments served after each.

The Music Department with the help of parents and the Fine Arts Boosters are hosting the Conference Solo and Ensemble Contest. What a talented group of musicians!

Submitted by Barb Ripperger

Students' Say

April 2003

Volume 1

Issue 6

Student of the Month

By Jacinda Motsch



Nycole Hart, a senior at Southeast Warren, is the student of the month for April. She was born December 16, in Des Moines, Iowa. Nycole has lived in this area all her life.

Nycole participates in a variety of sports including volleyball, for which she is a back row player, bowling, and the dance team, for

which she is a captain. She joined these activities because she liked them a lot and enjoyed playing them.

She says the greatest thing about this school is the people and how kind they are to everyone. Nycole believes this is a good place to get to know people better.

Nycole admires Sydney Schumann because she has been there for her through everything and is a great person with whom to share conversations. The experience in her life that she will never forget is making it to the All Iowa Honors Drill Team this year. When she remembers back to the first time she went to drill team camp at Storm Lake, she gets a big smile on her face.

Nycole's favorite song is *Angel*, and her favorite movie is *Pearl Harbor*. In her spare time she hangs out with friends. The thing Nycole will miss the most when she graduates is all the friends she has made here and all the activities in which she participated. She plans on going to Indian Hills to study nursing. The advice she would like to pass along is "Work hard and it will come back to you."

Student Interest

Truly Magic

By Caitlin Crow

On Thursday, March 6, I attended "Cinemagic," the high school choir concert. I thought that the performance was awesome. The skits and solos were exhilarating and entertaining. One of my favorite solos was *Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head* by Phil Nash. I liked it because he was singing while twirling a pink umbrella. "Supercalifahilisticexpialidocious" was sung by Amber Roland, Kelly Hoffman, and Marie Gaul. I enjoyed that song because of their squirly personalities.

One of the prettiest parts of the concert was when the choir sang *Isn't it Romantic* and *Flashdance*, and 8th grader Cortney Hardy performed a ballet dance. It was soothing to hear the choir sing and Hardy's movements were

Cont. next column

Faculty Spotlight

By Ben Dales and Garrett Reynolds

Connie Neer was raised on a small acreage outside of the town of Lacona. While in high school, Connie was the first female FFA president of the Southeast Warren Chapter. Listed among her other high school activities were participating in Mr. Vanstrein's plays, being a member of the basketball team, singing in the choir, playing in the band, and also being a cheerleader. Connie made a major purchase in high school which was her Z-28 Chevrolet Camaro. Connie has always loved Camaros and she was especially proud of that car.

After high school, Connie married Gary (a.k.a. Bub). They were united in marriage sixteen years ago and have two wonderful children Jared, 15, and Justin, 11. Connie previously taught preschool, worked at American Mutual Life Insurance, and was a personnel and sports manager at Wal-Mart. For the past six years she has worked at SEW. Connie loves her job and the students she interacts with on a daily basis.

However, if she were to get away from us all, Connie's dream vacation would be soaking up the rays on a beach in the Bahamas. While waiting for that vacation, she settles for walks on the beach while camping with family and friends.

Connie does so much for the students and teachers at Southeast Warren, and we want to say thank you for a job well done.



Student Interest

"Cinemagic" cont.

fluid and appropriate for the song. The concert had its rowdy side, too, as proved when the choir performed *Jaws*, and Chad Hart yelled out "Shark! Everybody out of the water!" That gave the audience a laugh. To sum it all up the choir, soloists, Cortney, and Mrs. Young did a fantastic job, and it looked like they were having fun doing it!

**Yearbooks are now \$45.00.
The last day to order will be
Wednesday, April 16, 2003.
No extras will be ordered this year.
Please order yours today!!!**

Movie Review

Tears of the Sun

By Nathan Kirschbaum

A civil war has broken out in Nigeria, and without warning, guerilla forces assassinate the president and most of his family. In the middle of Nigeria, an American, Dr. Lena Kendricks (Monica Belluci), a priest, and two nuns are attending to sick refugees at a missionary camp. Lt. A.K. Waters (Bruce Willis) and his U.S. Navy Seal Unit have been ordered to go in and get them out of the country. Trouble arises when Dr. Kendrick will not leave the refugees, who have been singled out because of their religion, behind. Innocent people were singled out because of their religion.

The two nuns and the priest decide to stay and take care of some of the refugees that are terribly sick and cannot go along. Soon after Dr. Kendricks, Lt. Waters and his unit leave, Lt. Waters is informed there are guerilla forces coming after something that Dr. Kendricks has. Realizing the importance of the "package," they decide to cross the border, but run into trouble along the way.

Innocent civilians were killed because of their beliefs. This type of ethnic cleansing happens often during civil wars. I think that "Tears of The Sun" is one of the best war movies in the last few years. The U.S. Navy Seals showed fighting skills that were exceptionally good. I enjoyed this because I appreciate combat fighting. I think that everyone should go and see this movie, because I thought it was really good.

A² Movie Review

Tears of the Sun

By Abby Davis and Angie Septer

At the beginning of this movie, Nigeria's presidential family has been assassinated, and Muslims are attacking Christians. Navy SEAL Lieutenant A.K. Waters and his elite team of tactical specialists come in with orders to evacuate all foreign nationals from the country, specifically Dr. Kendricks, a priest, and a couple of nuns. Dr. Kendricks says she will not go without her patients, so Waters elects to take her and her patients on foot to the Cameroon border. The whole time rebel forces are right behind them.

Of course, problems arise. One of which is that one patient is the only person left from the presidential family, giving the rebels more reason to chase after the group. Luckily for the Nigerians, the Americans and the American soldiers care more about humanity than duty. The whole goal for the Americans is to get these patients to the safe bordering country of Cameroon.

You'll have to watch this movie for yourself to see if the Americans heroic efforts get them to the border.

If you enjoy intense, dramatic war-films this would be a good movie for you. On a scale of one to ten tears, Abby and Angie give it a 6.

Student Interest

2003 Iowa High School State Wrestling Tournament

By Abby Davis

For two Southeast Warren wrestlers, this year's season ended with a bang. Andy Ohnemus at 119 pounds and Brandon Bauer at 160 pounds made their way to the 2003 State Wrestling Tournament at Vets Auditorium. Going into the tournament, Andy Ohnemus had a record of 44-0, and Bauer had a record of 32-6. Their first matches were on Thursday, February 27, and both Andy and Brandon opened the day with a win.

On Friday, February 28, Andy wrestled in the morning and won his second match, putting him in the semi-finals on Friday night. Brandon unfortunately lost his second match, but Friday night the excitement grew for Southeast Warren fans because there was a good chance that one of their wrestlers would make it to the finals and place in the top six. Ohnemus wrestled his long-time rival, Wade Sundell of Ogden. He dominated the match winning 11-0. Brandon wrestled his third match, which put him in the top eight. Shortly after winning his match, Bauer wrestled for the third time Friday and won his fourth match. He would wrestle one last time Friday to determine if he wrestled for 3rd, 4th, 5th, or 6th place. Despite his hard work, he fell short in his fifth match, losing 11-10. Though he lost his match, he advanced to Saturday afternoon where he would wrestle his final match of the 2003 season for fifth and sixth place.

On Saturday, March 1st, Bauer wrestled the #1 ranked wrestler at 160 pounds. He lost by fall in 1:34. "It was a fun experience that I hope to use as a building block for next year," commented Bauer. At Saturday night's finals, the enthusiasm of the tournament grew. Just two matches after the grand march, Andy Ohnemus took the mat to wrestle for the 1A 119 pounds Championship. He would face Brandon Bolhke of Kinsley Pierson. This freshman had an outstanding record of 45-1 entering the tournament and was ranked fifth in the state. Ohnemus lost his first match of the season in the third period, with a 5-4 decision. Ohnemus quoted, "It didn't work out quite as I had hoped, but all in all it was a good year."

For Ohnemus and Bauer the season ended with the great accomplishment of placing in the Iowa State Wrestling Tournament. Bauer ended his season breaking two school records, being a state qualifier, and placing sixth in the 160 pound weight class. Ohnemus ended his career holding eleven school records, being the most decorated Southeast Warren wrestler in Warhawk history, being a four time state qualifier, placing fifth at the State Tournament last year, and being the 2003 State Runner-up at 119 pounds.

Staff

All articles contributed by writers in the
8th hour Student Publications' Course.

Advisors: Mrs. Layton & Mr. Vos

**Southeast Warren Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting
February 10, 2003**

The Southeast Warren Board of Education met in regular session February 10, 2003, in the media center of the Primary building. President Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following board members were present: John Burrell, Tom Farley, Debbie Miller and Greg Davis. Superintendent Susan Garton, Intermediate Principal Cindy Butler and Board Secretary Julie Wilson were in attendance, along with members of the community.

AGENDA: Superintendent Garton requested the agenda be amended to include item F (1), Consideration of Board Policy 403.5, "Early Retirement Benefits," under new business. Motion by Burrell to amend the agenda by moving item "H" before item "G". Motion died for lack of a second. Motion by Farley, seconded by Miller to approve the agenda with the addition of item "F (1)". Ayes: Davis, Smith, Farley and Miller. Nays: Burrell. Motion passed 4:1.

VISITORS: Michelle Spear spoke on behalf of Austin Spear. Austin has been selected by People to People Student Ambassador Programs to go to Europe for fourteen days this summer as a student ambassador. Austin is one of 40 students selected out of 120 students to be a student ambassador. The trip will be funded by sponsorships through the community.

Superintendent Garton recognized Jenny Putz, an Indianola student, who visited Southeast Warren on a career shadowing experience. She spent the day with Brenda Chamberlain and Emily Layton. It was an honor that Jenny chose our school for her career shadowing experience.

Lisa Huyette and Art Club students were present to present the information on this year's Art Club trip to the Board. The Art Club is planning a trip to Kansas City on April 11-13th. Fifteen students and five chaperones will be going on the trip. Some of the activities planned include going to museums, the Kansas City Art Institute and Hen Valley Hiking Trail. The cost per student will be \$122.00.

REPORTS:

Transportation report:

1. January has been busy with wrestling and basketball trips as well as several extra trips. Sleepy Hollow was rescheduled twice due to the weather.
2. We are still transporting Lacy to Lacona. She is scheduled for surgery February 20th. We are in the process of looking for a van driver for Levi. Jim Illingsworth has resigned and is driving for Indianola.
3. We had one bus gel up during cold weather this

year so far; bus 12 needed brakes, exhaust and radio repair.

4. The drivers and I are working hard on a handbook that will be given out at registration for the 2003-2004 school year. I'm checking into a service the county has in designing our routes. I don't know if they will have many ideas. Hopefully they can help us out.

Secondary Principal's report:

1. Good Conduct Rule—Since the holiday, I have spent time talking to principals, parents, teachers, and students. I have also spoken to the Pride of Iowa conference principals. All of this with the intent to gather information about how other schools have written and administrate their Good Conduct Rule. There is quite a wide range of interpretation of the rule and how it is administered. My next step in the process is to form a committee to review our policy with the information I have gathered. Since this is part of board policy, I would like to have input from a board member(s), parent(s), teacher(s), and student(s). My goal is to submit a tentative proposal by the March board meeting.

2. Curriculum Consortium – As a result of the DE visit and the January 3rd teacher inservice, curriculum alignment became one of the top items that we need to address for the remainder of this year. This means that from K-12 our subject areas "speak" the same language. All three of our buildings have done work on the curriculum, but when comparing the standards and benchmarks, there is no vertical aligning, or "speaking" the same language. Our intent is to use the early out days for the remainder of the year to align our curriculum. Recently we have found out that there is a curriculum consortium of 23 schools that have worked together and continue to work together to do the very thing we need to accomplish. To belong to the consortium there is a three-dollar per student charge and an initial charge for all of the printed material. This charge is well worth the man-hours it would take to create a similar project on our own.

Ron VanStrien, Barb Ripperger, and Becky Burgin, our curriculum council, went to Martensdale-St. Marys to view their curriculum. They belong to the consortium. The team brought back a most favorable report concerning the information they received and the possible implementation of the curriculum for our district. All standards have been aligned for 5 subject areas with testing of the standards included. This program would help fulfill the requirements from the DE visit and the faculty concerns. Instead of using the early out days to rewrite our curriculum, the time would be spent reviewing and adopting the standards and benchmarks from the consortium. As we move closer to "No Child Left Behind" requirements, and further required testing for subject proficiency, the idea of joining the consortium makes great sense. Belonging to the consortium also helps us

to know that we are a group of schools using the same standards to educate our students.

Primary Principal's report:

Please see chart on page 17 for Parent-Teacher Conference Attendance and Office Referrals/ Detention figures.

Intermediate Principal's report:

Please see chart on page 17 for Parent-Teacher Conference Attendance and Office Referrals/ Detention figures.

Legislative report: Tom Farley reported that the Class Size Reduction/Early Intervention Program that was adopted four years ago is set to expire this year. The primary goal of the program was to improve student achievement in grades K-3 by reducing class sizes. It was funded at \$30 million per year. School board members are urged to contact their legislators with information to support retaining this program.

Tom also reported that in the *Des Moines Register* a poll had been taken concerning the statewide sales tax for school infrastructure. The poll indicated that 67% are in favor of a statewide sales tax for school infrastructure. Legislators need to be contacted and urged to support the statewide sales tax.

Children First Forum: Greg Davis and Rod Fridley reported that the January meeting had been cancelled due to bad weather. The next meeting will be held on March 3rd in Milo. The discussion will be on motivation and goal setting.

Non-Certified negotiations: Debbie Miller reported that a salary/benefit package with new salary schedules had been offered to the non-certified union earlier that evening. The non-certified staff wanted time to evaluate the schedules. The next negotiation meeting is scheduled for March 3rd.

CONSENT AGENDA: The following items were on the consent agenda:

1. January 9 and January 13, 2003, minutes
2. Financial reports
3. Second reading of Board Policy Sections 404, "Certified Personnel Leaves" and 410, "Non-Certified Personnel Absence & Leaves" Motion by Miller, seconded by Farley to approve the consent agenda. Ayes: 5.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Financial Condition of the District

The district's cash balance:

2000	2001	2002
\$864,323	\$840,351	\$547,336

Reasons for declining cash balance:

- 1) Negotiated contract for teachers for salaries this year - \$88,520.16
- 2) Negotiated contract for classified employees for salaries this year - \$20,953.27
- 3) New buses, vans, high repair costs during the

continued on page 16

February 10, 2003 Minutes
Continued from page 15

- last school year
 4) Attorney fees
 5) Reduced state aid
 6) Budget overruns at the High School
 7) Phone service
 8) Food service debt
 9) Budget for 2001-02 was \$77,000 over revenue
 10) Separation agreement for administrator

New money to the district:

2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
\$1,089	0	\$9,471	\$13,760

The solvency Ratio:

Formula: Unreserved Undesignated Fund Balance (UUFB) divided by Total Revenue

2000	2001	2002
12%	11.3%	3.4%

The district's target ratio: 5-10%

Official enrollment estimate from the Department of Education

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
606	606	597	596	587	584

PERSONNEL CHANGES: Superintendent Garton recommended approval of an additional ¼ teaching contract for the second semester only for Mike Tierney. The position will be evaluated for next year. Motion by Farley, seconded by Miller to approve the personnel change as presented. Ayes: 5.

PERSONNEL CHANGES: Superintendent Garton recommended approval of the appointment of Janet Hendrickson as day care aide, part-time, \$6.35 per hour; Matt Oliver, Assistant High School Boys' Track Coach; and Josh Snook, evening custodian at the High School at base salary. Motion by Miller, seconded by Davis to approve the personnel changes as recommended. Ayes: 5.

ART CLUB TRIP: Motion by Burrell, seconded by Farley to approve the Art Club trip to Kansas City on April 11th-13th. Ayes: 5.

TIME CHANGE FOR EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS: The administrative team requests the March, April and May early dismissals for staff development be changed from 1:30 to 11:30 to allow more time for teachers to work with consultants regarding the issues raised in the DE report. Motion by Farley, seconded by Miller to approve the early dismissal days as presented. Ayes: 5.

CLOSED SESSION: Motion by Miller, seconded by Farley to go into closed session as per Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(e) to conduct a hearing to determine whether to suspend or expel a student. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: 5. The time was 8:47 p.m.

President Smith called the closed session to an end at 9:02 p.m.

ACTION ON STUDENT HEARING: No action was taken.

BOARD POLICY SECTION 405: Motion by Miller, seconded by Burrell to approve the review of Board Policy Section 405, "Certified Personnel Related Considerations." Ayes: 5.

EARLY RETIREMENT BENEFITS: Superintendent Garton asked the Board to consider reinstating Board Policy 403.5, "Early Retirement Benefits." Board Member Burrell removed himself from the discussion of board members concerning the policy. Motion by Farley to approve the first reading of Board Policy 403.5. Motion died for lack of a second. The Board requested further information concerning the policy and the impact on the budget.

CLOSED SESSION: Motion by Miller, seconded by Farley to go into closed session as per Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(i) for the Superintendent's evaluation. Roll call vote was taken. Ayes: 5. The time was 9:35 p.m.

President Smith called the closed session to an end at 10:15 p.m.

AGENDA FOR WORK SESSION: The next board work session will be held on March 4th from 6:30-9:30 in the Superintendent's office. The work session will focus on finances and the budget.

Board Meeting Schedule

April 14, 2003
 Lacona
 7:00 p.m.

May 12, 2003
 Lacona
 7:00 p.m.

June 9, 2003
 Liberty Center
 7:00 p.m.

Letter to Parents

Dear Parents:

In 1995, the Iowa General Assembly passed legislation popularly known as Megan's Law. This law allows local law enforcement agencies to make public announcements about the release of persons who are convicted of a criminal offense against a minor, sexual exploitation, or a sexually violent offense. The purpose of releasing such information is to remind parents and others of the need to be cautious in circumstances where the well being of minors may be in danger.

Although we do not want to cause parents or students to become fearful, the school district believes it is important to share with parents information we receive regarding the release of sexual offenders into our neighborhood.

Recently, the district received notification that a sexual offender has moved into a residence in Lacona. This information was also reported in the Indianola Record Herald on March 12, 2003. Additional information can be found on the Iowa Sex Offender Registry maintained on the web by the Iowa Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Investigation.

Be assured that the district faculty and staff will continue to be vigilant in protecting the safety of all students while they are on school grounds or at a school activity.

Questions regarding this matter should be directed to the Superintendent's office at 641 466 3510.

Susan Garton, Superintendent

Primary and Intermediate Principals Reports

February 10, 2003 Board Meeting Minutes

Southeast Warren Primary Parent-Teacher Conference Attendance 2002-2003

November Conferences			January Conferences		
Preschool	Total	18/18 – 100%	Total	18/18 – 100%	
Kindergarten	Marsh	17/18	Marsh	17/18	
	Presley	18/18	Presley	17/18	
	Total	35/36 – 97%	Total	34/36 – 94%	
1 st Grade	Teas	17/18	Teas	17/18	
	Keenan	16/17	Keenan	17/18	
	Total	33/35 – 94%	Total	34/26 – 94%	
2 nd Grade	Williams	17/18	Williams	16/18	
	Burgin	14/16	Burgin	16/17	
	Total	31/37 – 84%	Total	32/35 – 91%	
3 rd Grade	Young	18/19	Young	19/20	
	Baker	18/18	Baker	18/18	
	Total	36/37 – 97%	Total	37/38 – 97%	
Building	Total	153/163 – 94%	Total	155/163 – 95%	

Southeast Warren Primary Office Referrals/Detentions

	2000-2001 (180 days)	2001-2002 (180 days)	2002-2003 (100 days)
Total Office Referrals:	25	36	14
Average Daily Detentions:	3 per day	2 per day	.57 per day

Southeast Warren Intermediate Parent-Teacher Conference Attendance 2002-2003

	November Conferences			January Conferences		
	Held	Possible	Percent	Held	Possible	Percent
Mrs. Butler	11	14	79%	8	16	50%
Mr. Jones	15	17	88%	11	18	61%
Mrs. Ripperger	17	17	100%	14	17	82%
Mrs. Clay	18	22	82%	19	22	86%
Mrs. Schneider	20	22	91%	21	23	91%
Mr. Harken	23	24	96%	21	26	81%
Mrs. Mead	19	24	79%	20	24	83%
Homeroom Totals	123	140	88%	114	146	76%
Ms. Spirek	6	6	100%	3	6	50%
Ms. Crall	9	10	90%	8	10	80%

Southeast Warren Intermediate Office Referrals/Detentions

	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003 (up to Feb. 1)
Detentions	632	426	89
Office Referrals	139	114	47

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Paula Schultz 466-3624



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