Soaring to new levels
Throughout the first quarter, many Alpha students have been promoted to the next level by working daily on their contracts and skills. Congratulations to these students for their hard work and dedication!

Trevor F. 1 - 2a
Andre H. 1 - 2a
Ryan K. 1 - 2a
Zyta'e P. 1 - 2a
Dante W. 1 - 2a
Jeremy J. 2a - 2b
Jacob M-D. 2b - 2c
Gabriel S. 2b - 2c
De’Naye 2b - 2c
Grant W. 2c - 3
Zoie M. 3 - 4
Jacoleby W. 3 - 4

Students of the week
In order to achieve student of the week, students are required to maintain perfect attendance, have their skill card signed daily, make their daily goal, and have no time outs or time after school. Congratulations to those who have made it!

Cedric O.  Jeremy J.
Grant W.  Christian R.
Elijah M.  Trenton T.
Zoie M.  Atalame C.
I hope this note finds everyone doing well and preparing for the Holiday Season. It’s difficult to believe that the school year is half over. As they say “time flies when your having fun” and that’s what the first half has been.

The staff and students have completed several creative and exciting projects. It’s great to walk into the classrooms and see all the wonderful things they are working on. We have had a number of new students join us since my last note and I would like to take the opportunity to welcome them and their families to Alpha School. Please feel free to contact me or the staff if you have any questions or concerns.

The staff and students want to wish everyone a great Holiday Season and the start to a Happy New Year!
Greetings from Elementary!

It has been a busy second quarter, with the arrival of two new students, and three students promoted: one to Level 4 (which means the start of transitioning back to public school) one to Level 2A, and one to Level 2B. We are very proud of them! All students have been working hard on their contracts, and learning new skills in Personal Growth class.

The Elementary class has been improving skills in Math, Reading and English, too. We have been enjoying the book ONE CRAZY SUMMER, adding to our interactive language arts notebooks, and brushing up our math facts, word problems, and time and money skills. Elementary students study Art, Literacy, Science and Social Studies in other classrooms, making them well-rounded learners!

We are working hard on our annual holiday play, an Alpha School tradition, with the Middle School class---hope you enjoy it! See you in 2017!

In Middle School we pivoted our focus from basic math to fractions. We have made great progress in finding common denominators, adding and subtraction fractions with unlike denominators, and converting improper fractions and mixed numbers.

In Middle School Social Studies students worked on improving map skills, early Spanish and English explorations and their settlements.

Elementary Social Studies have worked on reading maps and graphs, how national and state governments work, and Nebraska history.

In Personal Growth in addition to working on contracts we discussed behavioral skills and practice relaxation techniques. Students discussed different situations and scenarios they might encounter and how to deal with them appropriately.

In Middle School Science we explored the physical sciences with a focus on how and when these concepts show up in our lives. As the year comes to a close we will move on to covering Earth Science.

In Elementary School Science we set the foundation for beginning to understand how the physical world works. This semester we introduced what is work, electricity, force, matter, mass, and similar concepts.

A force is a push or a pull.
Seasons Greetings from the Junior High 1 classroom! In English we've finished the book *Touching Spirit Bear* and are working on completing the final project. Students are creating a book report poster and creating their own totem pole designs!

In Health Class we've learned about the dangers of using drugs and alcohol. We've started reading *LIFE STRATEGIES FOR TEENS* in Personal Growth and the students have really enjoyed reading together and learning about the ten life strategies to help them be successful.

In Social Studies the students in 8th grade have spent their time looking at the events that led to the American Revolution. Those events included The French Indian War, the variety of taxes that the British passed to pay for that war, the Boston Tea Party, and the Boston Massacre.

The 7th graders spent the quarter learning about the causes of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunami's. After learning the basics of how these natural disasters occur they created a poster highlighting information about a specific volcano.

In Junior High 1 the students have been working hard on their level contracts. We had one student, Zyta'e, move up a level. He went from level 1 to level 2a. We have several other students close to being on their petitions for levels 2b, 3, and 4. Those students will hopefully be ready for promotion shortly after returning from break.

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**JH2 - Mr. Petersen & Mrs. Howery**

**JH2 Promotions:**
- Trevor F was promoted from level 1 to level 2a.
- Alec H was promoted from level 2b to level 2c.

**JH1 and JH2 Math:**
This quarter the students focused and got a better understanding of fractions and geometry. During the unit of fractions, the students focused on proper and improper fractions. The students also focused on multiplying and dividing fractions. During our geometry unit students learned about the different shapes. The students also learned about the different types of angles. In this unit the students did awesome!

**General Science:**
- The first unit of the quarter was learning about the different properties of matter. Solid, liquid, and gasses and how heat can change the state of matter they are in. We are finishing our second unit, which is learning about longitude and latitude of the earth. We also are learning about the different time zones the earth has.

**Physical Science:**
- During Physical Science this quarter we focused on measuring work, heat, time, distance and speed. This was the first unit that we focused on this quarter. This was a very challenging unit, but the students did very well learning new material. The second unit, which we are currently finishing, is about magnets. North and south poles of the earth and how it works just like a giant magnet.

**Physical Education:**
- During this quarter we learned what a pulse does during a work out. We learned about resting heart rate, maximum heart rate, and target heart rate zone. The students did cardio exercises to increase their heart rates and they learned to calculate whether they were in their target heart rate zone.

**Health:**
- During Health this quarter we learned about the health risks certain kinds of drugs have on a persons body. We watched intervention video's to give a visual of how it can affect others as well. We also learned about nutrition and what food groups are important for the body.
HS1 - Mr. Thiemann & Mr. Jones

Happy Holidays from High School 1 with Mr. Thiemann and Mr. Jones! High School 1 students have had an awesome 2nd quarter, but we are definitely ready for a nice, relaxing holiday break. We would like to share some exciting and enjoyable things we have participated in this quarter.

High School 1 and High School 2 have been getting a ton of work done with Mr. Thiemann in English class. This quarter, the High School students have started picking topics that they will begin to research for their final research project at the end of the year. The students have also done an in-depth analysis of the book THE OUTSIDERS by S.E. Hinton. As a reward for finishing the book, the students also got to watch the 1983 movie adaptation of THE OUTSIDERS as a class.

In Social Studies, Mr. Jones and the World History students have taken a trip through Ancient Greece, the Roman Republic, and the Roman Empire. In American History, the freshman students have been getting through the American Civil War. Last, World Geography students have learned a ton about Central America and the Caribbean, and are finishing up their most recent unit on South America.

As a classroom, unfortunately we do not have many promotions to report at this time. High School 1 students are hard at work on their level contracts, but the timing just did not work for this newsletter. However, we are happy to report that Dante W. was promoted from Level 1 to Level 2a! Along with Dante’s success, our classroom has been doing a lot of great work in our Personal Growth Class. As a class, we are getting better and better at using relaxation techniques, taking advantage of cool downs, and using our skills to make great decisions and be awesome in all situations that present themselves.

Happy Holidays from High School 1 - we hope everyone has a fantastic break and gets plenty of rest, food, and relaxation.

HS2 - Mr. Crawford & Mr. Jackson

Happy Holidays from High School 2!

The end of the year is upon us and we are half way done! Four students were promoted this quarter. Grant was promoted from Level 2c to 3, De’Naye was promoted from Level 2b to 2c, Gabe was promoted from Level 2b to 2c, Scott was promoted from Level 2a to 2b.

Over half of our students are on Level 3 and above. If a student comes to school everyday and works on their contract they can be done in under 50 days! On level 4 is when they can start transitioning back to public school.

In the classroom the students have been having a little fun with math and science. Students participated in math and science races. A multiple choice question would be on the board and two students would race cars to the correct spot designated on the floor. This would usually happen at the end of a lesson and we used this to review what we went over.

We hope you have a fun a safe break and we will see you next year!
Best wishes,
NEWS FROM THE ART ROOM

MS. HUSEN & MR. JORDAN

The art room was busy last quarter working on reviewing prior knowledge. The elementary students used their knowledge from first semester and created several fall and winter themed art works using the elements and principles of art. They also learned about several new artist that include Andy Warhol and Paul Klee. The middle school students reviewed their knowledge on grid drawing and dry graffiti names. They also reviewed their knowledge on drawing forms and then created cardboard forms.

Junior High and High school recalled on their knowledge from last year and created beautiful clay boxes. They also reviewed their knowledge on shading and created several different Optical Illusion art pieces. Lastly they reviewed their grid drawing skills and created large graffiti name drawings.
Literacy:

This quarter in Literacy we continued working with Mrs. Kerst and Mrs. Derry on vocabulary. We play a couple of different games when we do vocabulary. We continued working on grammar throughout the quarter. We also worked a lot on prefixes and suffixes. We are still doing daily writing for five minutes each day. We have a positivity contact in literacy and all of our groups have earned at least one fun day this semester, we will continue to towards fun days after winter break.

Living Skills:

This quarter in Living Skills we started learning about technology. We learned about the different parts of technology and how useful technology is. We continued the technology theme by creating powerpoint presentations about their favorite animal. All of the students researched their animals and created their own powerpoint presentation to present to the rest of their classmates. Next we did a sewing project. Each of the students picked a pattern and sewed it together and stuffed it to create a stuffed animal. They all learned two different stitches and they used both stitches when they sewed their animals together. We ended the quarter learning about budgeting. We talked about why setting up a budget is important and the different steps you take to set up a budget.
Ms. McFarland & Mrs. Stevens’s Social Worker Corner

We had a GREAT turn out at our Halloween-themed Game Night! Thank you to all who attended and participated in family fun! We held another Caregiver Night in early December and discussed how to access resources in your area. If you are unable to attend, but would like the information discussed at our Caregiver Nights, please feel free to contact us and we will get it to you! We will soon send out a flyer announcing our next Caregiver Night, we hope to see you there! Don't forget, each time you attend, you will be entered in a drawing to win a gift card!

Have a great Winter Break!

Happy Holidays from Alpha School Social Workers!
~Mrs. Stevens and Ms. McFarland