

Northern Lights

Weekly News and Notes from Hanna, Elk Mountain,
and Medicine Bow Elementary Schools



Next Week

- **Monday**

Fourth Grade NAEP Assessment (All schools)
HES 5th Grade and MB 5/6 field trip to Wyoming Legislature

- **Tuesday**

- **Wednesday**

County Spelling Bee at Rawlins Jeffrey Center
100th Day of School

- **Thursday**

HES K-2 100 day celebration
Mr. Shipp in meeting in Saratoga_AM

- **Friday**

No School for Students or Staff
Academic Assistance by teacher recommendation



Testing a design in Lego Robotics



Hyrum ponders how his height compares with Abraham Lincoln's on Presidents' Day.

Notes from the Principal

What did the thief who stole a calendar get? (answer at end of column)

Last night the Carbon #2 Board of Directors voted to approve a common calendar for all of the schools in the district. This will have some effect on our schools though the difference will not be all that dramatic.

Our state department establishes school calendars as 175 student days. Districts may submit a proposal for an alternative calendar as long as it meets other guidelines including the number of contact hours. For elementary schools the minimum acceptable proposal has 900 contact hours which does not include lunch or recess. Our elementary schools have scheduled at least 1025 hours for the past several years. All of the schools in Carbon #2 have been on an alternative calendar for the past eight years though these calendars have not necessarily been the same. For example, up until two years ago, our elementary schools were on a different schedule than HEM.

Most importantly, there is little research to support that regular or alternative calendars have much effect on student achievement. What is important is what we do with the time and the quality of teachers we have teaching your students. We have excellent teachers and our students will continue to excel because of them.

While every community is different, it does make sense to have everybody on the same schedule. Some schools in our district (including ours) share staff with other schools. It is difficult to schedule people to work in more than one building and having different calendars makes it even more difficult. In addition, having all teachers in the district on the same calendar will help in staff training.

Next year's calendar will be on the district web page and has been in the newspaper as option 5B. Generally, we will be in session one Friday per month with a few months having two. There will be a full two weeks out of school over the Christmas holiday and there will be a one week spring break in March. School will start for students on August 24 and will be out before Memorial Day. As of this writing, we still need to set dates for parent-teacher conferences and we have two "flex Fridays" in October and January for which we are likely to change the dates to accommodate homecoming and other considerations.

The calendar was recommended by the District Accountability Team of which our parent representatives are Melissa Proffitt, Wyndi Waring, and Katrina Durfey. Feel free to contact myself or any of our representative for input on the calendar and other district issues.

And yes, the thief who stole the calendar got *12 months*.

-Mr. Shipp