

## Welcome Back and a Year in Review

It seems that each year goes by faster than the last. It is hard to comprehend that it has been over a year since we moved to town. It has been a great year! My family and I greatly appreciate everyone in the community who have been so open and willing to welcome us to the Langdon community. That open, welcoming personality that our community radiates is one of my strongest selling points when recruiting new teachers and staff to the school.

We completed our first budget cycle. The budget for the Langdon Area School District this past year was \$5,314,463 and we ended the year within \$6000 of that number so basically a balanced budget. We continue to work at being good stewards of the public funds trusted to the school district to provide education for our students.

Environment and the development of connections was a concentration of mine during this first year. I fully believe that students who want to be in school, and want to learn, will learn at a higher level than those who are going through the motions. We worked on developing those connections through a hand shake project where we taught the students the importance of a good handshake and had our staff model this process multiple times. We will start our year with teachers meeting their students at the door with a handshake. The student council took on a project called "Start with Hello" that taught our students some skills to help them initiate conversations and develop the background to notice when their peers may be isolated. Our students achieved 100% mastery of a specific list of vocabulary words that relate directly to assessment and their success in answering many of the questions of our high stakes testing. The student council will continue to focus on helping the student body feel included and helping each individual feel connected to our school community. The power vocabulary words will be revisited and the teaching staff is working diligently at wrapping those words into their curriculum.

The Langdon Area-Edmore-Munich extra-curricular programs had a great deal of success at all levels ranging from participating in state tournaments to competing at a high level in the regional tournaments. Participation in our extra-curriculars appears to be growing in numbers which is bucking the trend of declining involvement across the nation. We look forward to having successful teams and programs throughout this school year again. I would like to remind the senior citizens (65 years of age) in our communities that by calling Mary in the office (701-256-5291) you can receive a lifetime pass mailed to you that will get you into all of our events in any of the three communities in the coop. This offer also extends to any who would qualify from the Edmore or Munich districts as well.

Writing across our curriculum is going to be a focus for the Langdon Area School District this year. This is an area identified for growth in our school improvement process. We have a committee of dedicated teachers preparing a plan and material for a writing symposium that our students will take part in. The ability to communicate effectively through writing is vitally important for our students to score well on their ACT assessment and in many occupations, they may pursue in life. A note to parents: A 30 plus on the ACT will provide a high level of scholarships to any school in the North Dakota University System.

I look forward to a great year. Know this is your school district so if you have any question please feel free to contact me at the school.

Daren Christianson, Superintendent Langdon Area School District

## Elementary Drop Off

The Langdon Area School District is going to make a few changes this year that affect the start of the school day at our elementary school. We are going to allow parents to start dropping their children off at 7:45 AM rather than 8:00 AM as it has been in the past. We hope that by doing this we can help serve our public and allow them to get to work by 8:00 AM. We are asking our parents to only drop off in the driving lane closest to the school so that our students do not have to cross traffic to get onto school grounds. We have ordered drop off zone signs for the sidewalk by door 1 on the west side and to be placed on the northeast corner of the block by doors 3 & 5 for southbound traffic. We understand old habits are hard to break but for the safety of our children we appreciate your efforts.

Langdon Area School District

Administration & School Board