

Dundy County Stratton Elementary Principal's Report
May 2026 School Board Meeting

The elementary has had a very busy and rewarding month as we close out another successful school year.

On May 1st, we held a Reading Walk for 6th grade student Josey Haskell, who achieved 100 Accelerated Reader points for the school year. Congratulations to Josey on this outstanding accomplishment and dedication to reading.

Ms. Farenholz and Mrs. Zarkowski attended the NETA Conference in Kearney, where they participated in professional development opportunities and explored new educational resources and technology ideas to bring back to our students and staff.

During the week of May 4th, Grace Methodist Church, McCook National Bank and Dundy Rural Rehab Services provided cookies for our teachers as part of Teacher Appreciation Week, and the district provided coffee mugs as an appreciation gift for all staff members. We greatly appreciate the support shown to our teachers and staff for the work they do each day.

On May 5th, we held a staff potluck to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. We also conducted Reading Walks for several 1st grade students including Kimber and Kye Jesch, Toby Haskell, and Kenzie Loker for reading 100 books during the school year. This year, instead of our traditional confetti walk, we tried a new idea by creating a disco light show celebration. Students used flashlights while Mr. Loghry provided a light machine, making the event exciting and memorable for everyone involved.

On May 7th, Dundy County Stratton Elementary hosted Safety Day, organized by Dundy County Hospital and Tawnia Nichols. Vendors included DCH, BWTelCom, Nebraska Game and Parks, Dundy County EMTs, Jyssica Forch with swimming safety, UNL with ATV safety, the Dundy County Sheriff's Office, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, Southwest Public Power District, Benkelman Volunteer Fire Department, Dundy County Stratton FFA, and Southwest Nebraska Public Health. Students learned valuable safety information on a wide variety of topics, and we appreciate all of the organizations and individuals who made the day successful.

As we finish the school year, several activities are planned for our students. On May 13th, Kindergarten students will travel to the Fish Hatchery and the Tucker Ranch, while the 2nd grade class will travel to Old Towne in Burlington.

On Friday, May 15th, Preschool Promotion will take place at 9:00 a.m. in the preschool room, followed by Kindergarten Graduation at 10:00 a.m. in the gymnasium. We will also hold a 4th through 6th grade Quiz Bowl competition organized by Mr. Schields.

Our annual Elementary Track and Field Day will be held on May 19th, with Kindergarten through 3rd grade participating during the morning session and 4th through 6th grades participating in the afternoon session.

On May 20th, we will hold the annual A.R. Carnival hosted by the Lions Club and coordinated by Frank Merklin. School will dismiss at 1:00 p.m. for the end of the school year. Our teachers will be busy rearranging their rooms as school closes to get ready for our HVAC project. At the conclusion of the teacher work day on May 22nd, the Elementary school will be closed for this project for the summer. We will move the Elementary office up to the High School Media Center for the summer.

As I conclude my 18th year at Dundy County Stratton Schools, I would like to express how much I have enjoyed working with the students, staff, families, and community members throughout my time here. I am grateful for the relationships, the experiences and the guidance of Mr Garey, that have made my time at DCS so meaningful. I would also like to thank Mrs. Davis for her assistance and willingness to do what it takes to make our school run smoothly. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the many good things happening at Dundy County Stratton Schools. I wish the school continued success in the years ahead.

Kristian K. Freeland Ed. S.

Dundy County Stratton Elementary Prinicpal