

## **Elementary Principal Report**

### **March 2024**

#### **Furnas County Spelling Bee**

The Furnas County Spelling Bee was held here on February 14th. AHPS hosted the event, and a big thank you goes out to Mrs. Katie Helms for organizing the event. Thirty-one students from Southern Valley, Cambridge, and Arapahoe competed.

Arapahoe's participants this year were:

8<sup>th</sup> graders: Cydney Carlson and Elena Lee

7<sup>th</sup> graders: Amelia Blickenstaff, Alaina Leising, Meg Hilker, Zach Einspahr, and Romalie Williamson

6<sup>th</sup> graders: Elizabeth Magorian, Lilly Helms, and Bryce Melhus

The competition began with a 50 word written test that was then checked during a short intermission and the top 10-12 spellers continued on to the oral round. We had the following students medal in the written round:

Elizabeth Magorian – 2<sup>nd</sup> place

Cydney Carlson – 3<sup>rd</sup> place

Lilly Helms – tied for 6<sup>th</sup> place

\*Amelia Blickenstaff did not medal but qualified for the oral round.

In the oral round, we had the following medalists:

Cydney Carlson – 4<sup>th</sup> place

Amelia Blickenstaff – 5<sup>th</sup> place

Ultimately, Kate Salberg from Cambridge was the champion this year, and she will represent our county at the Regional Spelling Bee in Omaha.

#### **Invention Convention**

Invention Convention is open to students in grades 3-6. Presently, we have 10 to 12 students that have expressed interest in participating either individually or with a partner. The students propose their idea for a product or invention to Mrs. Helms and then work to have a presentation ready by April 11th.

#### **Quiz Bowl**

Coming up on March 20th, the Elementary and Junior High quiz bowl teams will wrap up their seasons at the ESU quiz bowl meet in Holdrege at the Nebraska Prairie Museum.

#### **Read Across America**

On March 1st we celebrated Read Across America and Nebraska's birthday. Students were encouraged to dress up as in honor of Nebraska, Dr. Seuss, or reading in general. Our teachers did a great job of incorporating the day into their Buddy activities. During Buddy Time, students

from different grade levels come together once a week for a fun learning activity. As I walked around observing the kids, it warmed my heart to see students enjoying their time together by just reading to each other.

### Mental Health

The following individuals attended a two day seminar regarding mental health needs: Dale Henderson, Amy Huxoll, Heidi Thomas, LeAndra Monie Katie Andrews, and Ben Ellis. The team is putting together a proposal to address staff professional development, curriculum resources, and an MTSS system of support to help monitor and improve mental health of students and staff at AHPS. There is initial grant funding available through the NDE. The challenge is to be mindful of sustainability costs as we move forward.