

# The Saydel Communicator

December 2014 / January 2015

**School Hours:**

- Cornell 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Wed. 9:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Woodside 7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.  
Wed. 8:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
- High School 7:45 a.m. to 2:46 p.m.  
Wed. 8:45 a.m. to 2:46 p.m.

**NOTE: Each Wednesday all schools begin one hour later for teacher in-service.**

**Inside this issue:**

Supt.'s Message—cont'd	2
Supt.'s Message—cont'd	3
Woodside Middle School	3
Saydel High School	4
Saydel High School—cont'd	5
Saydel Athletics & Activities-cont'd	6
Saydel Athletics & Activities-cont'd	7
Saydel Athletics & Activities-cont'd	8
Saydel Athletics & Activities-cont'd	9
Cornell Elementary	10
After Prom	11
Woodside Mock Trial	12
Woodside Mock Trial-cont'd	13
School Closing Information	13
Saydel Food Service	14
Saydel Food Service—cont'd	15
School Information	16

## SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Douglas Wheeler



Fellow Eagles,

I hope this message finds you and your family well as winter and the holiday season approaches. In this update I am excited to inform you of projects we have been working on to ensure a great experience for students in Saydel. I have also included some enrollment and demographic information about our district.

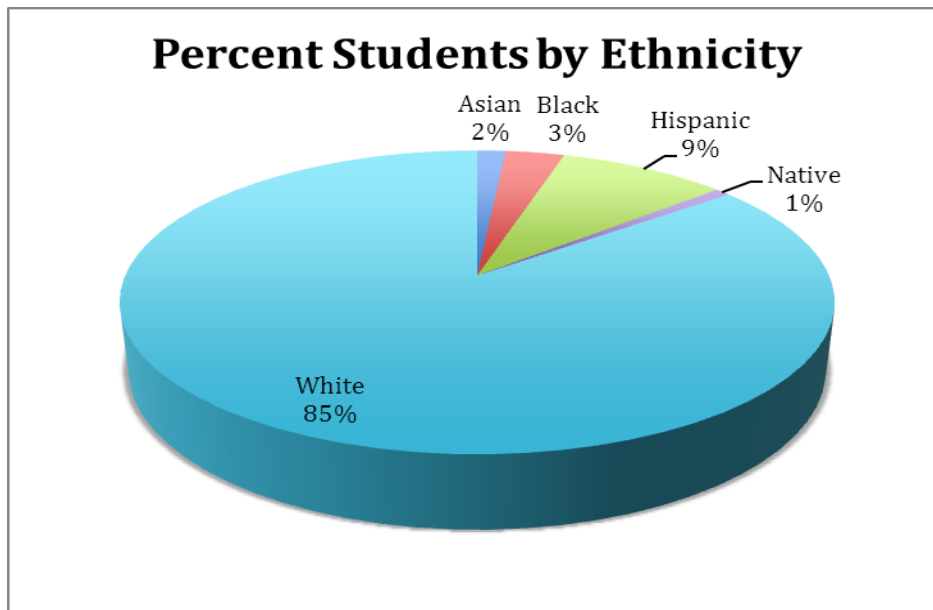
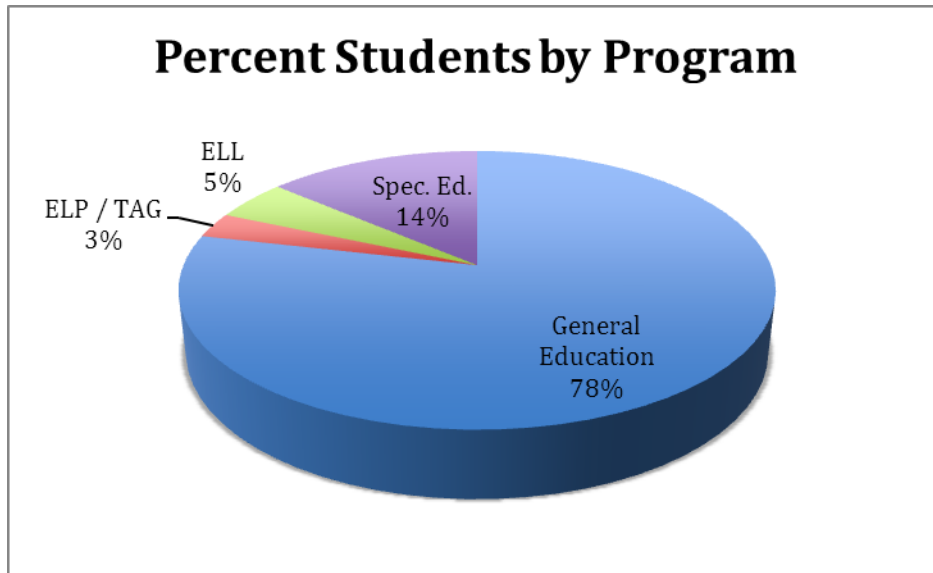
In my last communicator article, I mentioned our work with implementing the Iowa Core Curriculum. Teachers are currently engaged in mapping our curriculum to ensure that class to class and year to year our students are engaged in learning experiences that will lead them to master state standards. Curriculum mapping goes beyond identifying *what* will be taught and *when* it will be taught to the best methods in *how* students interact with the curriculum. Through the mapping process and engagement in the TAP system, our teachers are working to learn teaching strategies aimed at engaging students in higher order thinking and problem solving. We are also in the process of examining curricular materials at each level to further support this process.

In addition to bolstering our academic program, we are surveying current Saydel families to identify ways we can improve in the area of communication. I believe that communication can always be strengthened. At the time I am writing this article, the survey is still open, but we have already some useful information from close to 200 participants. For example, most participants say that communication is improving or is at an acceptable level. Respondents also state that we can continue to improve the level of communication between schools and families about the academic progress of their student. In addition to this survey, we have requested volunteers to serve on a district parent focus group to examine and refine our district “essential learnings.” The essential learnings are skills and characteristics we want our students to demonstrate through their experience in Saydel. This focus group will begin to meet after the first of the year to offer input to the Board as these learnings are refined.

October 1<sup>st</sup> is the official count date for Iowa Schools. Enrollment is important because funding for schools is based on student enrollment. Our hope is that through meeting our three non-negotiable goals (1) improving student achievement (2) maximizing resources and (3) enhancing culture, image and relationships; we will see more students enter our district through residency and open enrollment. The following is a 5 year enrollment trend:

## Superintendent's Message-cont'd

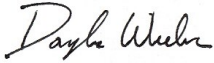
This year there are also 46 pre-school students not included in the above count. The following charts represent a demographic snapshot of the district including ALL students served (including pre-school and using state reporting language):



**Superintendent's Message—cont'd**

I am hopeful you found the information from this article useful. I appreciate the time you spend reading the communicator to inform yourself of the great things happening every day in the Saydel Schools. I wish you and your family the best in the coming months and in the new year.

Sincerely,



Douglas Wheeler  
Superintendent of Schools

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**Woodside Middle School  
Christopher Feldhans, Principal**

The cold weather is here and Woodside Middle School is moving their activities indoors. Our fall sports have wrapped up and our Football, Volleyball and Cross Country Teams have worked hard on building the fundamental skills that will make them a valued part of our Saydel High School Athletics. Practices have begun for Boys and Girls Basketball as well as Wrestling. With the temperatures these past few days, we are glad that these are all indoor activities. Please watch the calendar for game dates and times.

Our students and teachers have been working hard in the classrooms to build our students' academic skills. We use our Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Data to help us assess where our students' areas of need are and then build a plan to help improve in that skill area. We are rapidly approaching our Winter Testing Window for MAP and will then take time to look at the new student data sets so that we can adjust instruction to meet the students' needs as they shift throughout the school year. This is our second year using MAP Testing and we are learning more every day about how to use this tool to help move our students forward.

As a parent you can always help your students' progress academically by providing them the time and a space to read independently every day. 20 minutes of independent reading each day will do great things for helping your child progress as a reader

## SAYDEL HIGH SCHOOL

### Kevin Schulte, Principal

Continual growth and improvement is what we are all about at Saydel High School. We have had the opportunity to witness and encourage growth from all staff and students during our short time together this fall.

#### Student Growth and Success

Growth has led to a number of student successes and in the short amount of time this fall we have had a number of student performance to cheer about:

Nick Dolan, senior, earned National Merit Semifinalist status.

47 students were named to the Gold Honor Roll.

157 students were named to the Green Honor Roll.

Boys Cross Country won meets at both North Polk and Saydel.

Joey Hassett, senior, was selected for the Iowa All-State Band.

Marching Band was named Grand Champion in Fort Dodge, a division 1 rating was earned at the State Marching Band Competition and best color guard was earned at 4 competitions.

100 students are enrolled in classes in which they can earn college credit. These classes provide great learning opportunities, but also help reduce the cost of college for our families.

Casey Roberts, senior, and David Parker, sophomore, qualified for the 3A State Cross Country Meet.

402 students (88%) of students have demonstrated behaviors of effective students by not earning an office referral.

#### We take a great deal of pride in our staff growth:

Within our professional learning we have focused on development associated with TAP. The TAP rubric clearly defines best practice in all areas of teaching. We have transitioned into learning focused developing student thinking skills. This learning has been determined through evaluation of our student assessment data and field testing of strategies.

We have had teachers engage in learning and growing at various conferences including:

Iowa Council of Teachers of English Conference

Iowa Teachers of Psychology Conference

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Regional Conference

Iowa Math and Science Conference

Iowa World Language Association Conference.

These external learning experiences allow our staff to continually grow and enhance instructional skills.



#### Toys for Tots-Toy Drive

Audrey Westphal, senior, and Kaley Kuehl, senior, are spearheading a Toy Drive at Saydel. They have established a goal of collecting 200 new toys by December 12<sup>th</sup> to be donated to Toys for Tots. As a part of the outstanding initiative, we are encouraging community members to bring a new, unopened toy to the basketball game on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Each person bringing a toy will receive a voucher for a free bag of popcorn.

**Please come out and support your Eagles and those in need on December 5<sup>th</sup>.**

***Saydel High School—cont'd*****MAP Testing**

This is the second year of implementing and utilizing MAP testing. Teachers have worked to analyze the data generate testing to impact classroom instruction. This data provides more information that allows us to more effectively group students and meet students at their learning need.

Grade	Percent of Students Scoring in the High or HiAvg Range
	Fall 2013-2014
9	40%
10	40%
11	51%

**Important Dates**

Date	Time	Event	Location
12/3/14	6:30 PM	Music Boosters	Vocal Room
12/7/14	7:00 PM	Winter Concert	Auditorium
12/17/14	6:00 PM	Athletic Boosters	HS Library
12/22/14		Winter Break	
1/5/15		Classes Resume	
1/7/15		Music Boosters	Vocal Room
1/8/15		Semester Tests-Odd Periods	
1/9/15		Semester Tests-Even Periods, End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester	
1/12/15		No School	
1/21/15	6:00 PM	Athletic Boosters	HS Library
1/23/13	6:00 PM	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night-2014-2015 Course Registration	

**Stay in the Know**

Follow us on Twitter (@SaydelIHS) or like us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/saydelhighschool>)

## **ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES**

### **Adam Busch, Activities Director**

Hello Eagles,

The Winter Sports season is running in full stride and the Eagles are ready to battle on the court and on the mat. We have some great upcoming activities at winter events to check out and be involved in. From Winter Eagle Wrestling to Cornell Elementary Night there are many opportunities to see students in action and being recognized for all of their hard work and dedication. Check out the winter activities calendar to find all of the dates we have events at home this upcoming season. We look forward to seeing you in the stands this winter to support the Eagles on their way to a victory! But.....since it is winter, we need to be prepared in the event that games/matches are rescheduled due to weather. If you have not already, get registered on our activities website ([www.saydel.k12.ia.us](http://www.saydel.k12.ia.us)) to receive cancellation or postponement notices whenever they happen. Once you are on the calendar, look for the icon in the upper right corner to find the link you need. This calendar is where you can find all of the information about all of the activities at Saydel CSD. Check it out!!

#### **General rules for practices**

1. Early outs: there will be no practices when school is let out early.
2. School Closed: generally, practices will not be held unless administrative approval is given based on current weather conditions. In those cases, practices will be for varsity athletes only and in the afternoon hours.

#### **JOIN THE BOOSTERS!!!**

The Saydel Music and Athletic Booster Clubs want to invite you to be a part of these wonderful organizations. The Music Boosters meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month at 6:30 in the high school music room. The Athletic Boosters meet the third Wednesday of every month at 6:00 in the high school media center. These groups are here to help promote and support ALL our programs - including middle school and high school! Many times we forget that these groups are not just for the high school programs. WE NEED MORE PEOPLE INVOLVED!!! If you have a child who is just beginning his/her journey through middle school and scholastic athletics, we would appreciate your viewpoints and involvement with our organization. Your leadership will help mold the future of our programs. The Booster Clubs also need your assistance in volunteering your time with the concession stand. Help is needed from parents of all high school and middle school (7-12 grades) students participating in sports and activities. We ask that if your child is involved in an extra-curricular sport or activity, that you volunteer at least one time to work in the concession stand. Please contact your child's coach or the varsity coach for a schedule. Thank you for supporting the Booster Clubs and giving back to our programs!

## Athletics and Activities– cont'd

### Band

On Saturday, October 25, Senior Joey Hassett auditioned for, and was selected for, the Iowa All-State Band. This is the highest honor a high school musician can achieve.

Joey was one of only thirty trumpets statewide to be selected for this prestigious group. He will rehearse at Iowa State University from November 20-22, and then perform a concert along with the Iowa All-State Choir and the Iowa All-State Orchestra on the night of the 22nd. This concert will be recorded and televised on Thanksgiving Day on PBS.

A huge congratulations to Joey Hassett!



### Fall Musical

The Saydel High School Drama Department presented *Standardized Testing — The Musical!!!!* by Sam Willmott on November 7 & 8 at 7:00 PM in the high school auditorium. It

is the story of eight eccentric teenagers who set out to prove their self-worth on the single biggest day of their entire academic lives. Over the course of one test, they create and destroy friendships, learn to express their individuality, and sing their hearts out through an eclectic fusion of musical theatre styles, ranging from lush ballad to sparkling jazz, sultry bossa nova, gospel, funk and everything in between.

The production pokes fun at the exams that high school students have to take by demonstrating that there is more to each of the teenagers than the information that can be captured on a sheet of Scantron bubbles. Progressing through the format of a test structure with a Multiple Choice portion consisting of solos, a fifteen minute break spoken in real time, and a Free Response section where songs build and overlap, the students expose their deepest concerns, aspirations, and sources of suburban teen angst.

For those that attended it was a great evening of fun and entertainment provided by some very talented Saydel students. Plan on making the fall musical a must-see each and every fall at Saydel!

## Athletics and Activities—cont'd

### Cross Country

The Saydel Eagle Cross Country Team ran districts in Pella at the Central College Cross Country Course. The boys' team had high hopes to achieve a team appearance in the state cross country meet, a feat that hasn't been done for 20 years at Saydel. Though they fell 31 points short, the effort was not a loss as they were successful on many fronts.

The Pella district was easily the hardest in the state to get in to the state meet. With 4 ranked teams as well as other traditionally very good running schools, it would take a superb effort to make it in to the top 10 individuals or the top 3 teams.

The girls started off the afternoon running very well, though it was their last meet of the season, they did finish in front of 4 other schools, something they haven't been able to achieve til now. Lyndsay Bianchi finished first out of the Eagles, followed by freshman Ada Miklus. Senior Gabby Richards was third for the Eagles. The girls team will return a solid core of runners for next season with Bianchi (10th), Milkus (9th), Cassie Chubb, (11th), Jordan Johnson (11th), Makenzie Pyles (11th), and Jayda Tolentino (9th) being added to some strong incoming 8th grade runners as well. With consistent off-season training the girls could show some amazing improvement over the next year.

The boys came in with focus to districts. Eyeing the top 10 and top 3 team finish, they went out and put themselves in a great position, Casey Roberts jumped into the top 10 in 6th place at the 1 mile mark with David Parker in 13th. At mile 2 Casey had dropped back 1 spot into 7th, but David pushed himself into 8th, a mere 5-6 behind Roberts at that point. The strategy was to get into a position in the top 9 and hold on and they boys did exactly that finishing the last mile out Roberts ended with a 6th place finish and Parker with 9th sending both runner to the state meet in Fort Dodge.

The team fared quite well also, finishing 5th overall out of the 12 teams, avenging an early season loss to Carlisle as well as beating the 14th ranked team in the state in Mt. Pleasant. Roberts, Parker, Joey Hasset, and Nathan Nelson all set season PRs on the day. The boys also bring back a strong core of runners in Parker (10th), Nelson (9th), Kole Walker (11th), Josh Green (9th), Alex Scott (11th), and Cody Boozell (9th).

The state cross country meet was held in Fort Dodge on Saturday, November 1. Meet information can be found on the Iowa High School Athletic Association website under "sports" and "cross country". Casey and David did a great job representing Saydel in the state meet and we are very proud to call them Eagles!!

We are always welcoming and looking for more runners to help fill out the team and add competition to varsity spots. Please let Coach Steve Gebhart now if you are interested in running for Saydel Cross Country and be a part of our future success!!!



Coach Steve Gebhart, David Parker, Casey Roberts and Coach Ami Sinnott



**Athletics and Activities—cont'd****Football**

The Saydel football team missed an opportunity to notch another victory during the 2014 season as the Eagles fell 34-20 to East Marshall. Penalties, mistakes, and turnovers proved too much to overcome on a beautiful night for high school football.

Clayton Sommers rushed 35 times for 240 yards while completing 11 of 20 pass attempts for 99 yards and 2 touchdowns. Senior Grant Sherman caught seven passes for 65 yards and a touchdown. He also rushed four times for 16 yards and one touchdown. Senior Justin Carr caught a ten-yard touchdown pass, his third of the season, tying fellow senior Zach McBride for the school record for most touchdown receptions in a season.

On defense, the Eagles were led by Senior Corey Denning's six tackles, while juniors Rece Martin and Jared Reese recorded 5.5 and four tackles respectfully. Sophomore Devin Porter also recorded four tackles.

The Eagle Football program wishes to extend a special "thank you" to the outgoing senior class for their hard work and dedication

**OPEN ENROLLMENT NOTICE**

Parents considering the use of open enrollment option to enroll their children in another public school district in the state of Iowa should be aware of the following deadlines:

**March 1, 2015**— Last date for regular open enrollment requests for the 2015-2016 school year.

**September 1, 2015**— Last date for open enrollment requests for entering kindergarten students for the 2015-2016 school year.

Applications must be filed with the district of residence *and* the receiving district. Parents and students should be aware that open enrollment may result in the loss of athletic eligibility for participation in varsity sports.

Open enrollment forms are available at the Saydel District Office and are also available through the Department of Education website: [www.educateiowa.gov](http://www.educateiowa.gov).

For further information, visit the Department of Education website: [www.educateiowagov](http://www.educateiowagov).

## CORNELL ELEMENTARY

Deb Chiodo, Principal

As we head into December and January would like to take this opportunity to share upcoming projects and activities at Cornell. Check our calendar of events, community support and participation is always welcome!

**December 3,** 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will travel to the ART CENTER for a guided tour. Students will have the opportunity to view, critique, and answer questions about art. This is a great opportunity to use vocabulary learned in art as well as show off their knowledge of artists and styles. Each group of students will be led through the Art Center by a Docent and will view a variety of works.

**December 4 – 2:30** Ronald McDonald will visit Cornell students. The focus of the visit is FRIENDS! How to be a good friend, treat others with respect, and promote good character!

**December 5<sup>th</sup>** CORNELL CARES PROJECT – *Pennies for Patients* is a program that works toward finding a cure for Leukemia and Lymphoma as well as provide financial support to families who are battling cancer. Kicking off December 5<sup>th</sup> collection boxes and a letter explaining *Pennies for Patients*, will be sent home to help motivate students to collect their pennies, nickels and dimes. Collection will end on **December 12<sup>th</sup>**. Any donation is appreciated by the families who are working each day to defeat cancer. Checks are also accepted; please make them out to LLS or The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Thank you for your support!

**December 11** 7:00 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade concert at Saydel High School Auditorium. \*\*\**Please note the new date.*\*\*\*

**December 19** Mini Sessions in the morning followed by a snack and sing-a-long with Saydel High School Choir. Thank you to PTO for your support of this activity.

**December 22 –through January 5** – Winter Break time to have fun in the snow and remember to read, read, read. Help your child keep a list of all the books you are able to read over the break.

**January 12 - NO SCHOOL** Staff in-service work day.

**January 13 – 6:30 p.m.** Cornell PTO meeting in the Library. Cornell PTO is hard at work in your school. They would love new faces at PTO. Parents are always welcome and babysitters are provided! PTO is on FACEBOOK – please give them a like.

**January 22 – 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.** 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Student-Parent MATH night. Please join us for FUN with MATH!



## Saydel After Prom Can Drive

Our next can drive will be  
February 7, 2015  
9am - Noon

If you need someone to pick up your redeemable cans/bottles  
(plastic or glass) before that time call Dianne @ 289-2693

Thank you to everyone who has donated so far

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## SAYDEL AFTER-PROM FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

Mark your calendars – Dance will be on:

**Saturday, February 7, 2015**

Watch for more details to come!



## .2014 Middle School Mock Trial Competition

Mia Donovan

Vs

Shannon Dempsey,

Julia Bradley, and

Scipio Futbol Club, INC.



Pictured: Madison Sloan, Marissa Carrillo, Megan Ford, Gabby Neddermeyer, Raegan Fitch, Katie Plascencia, Reilly Agesen, Logan Williams, Marissa Chally, Drew Swank, and Ana Green.

On Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, Woodside students participated in the Iowa Regional Mock Trial Competition at the Iowa Events Center. They were one of forty-seven middle school teams competing. The team received the trial information after Labor Day and met every Sunday for two to three hours, and before and after school learning about courtroom procedures and protocols. Attorney Cory McAnelly, from McKee, Voorhees, & Sease volunteered his time and expertise to coach these students. His time, dedication, and hard work helped turn them into strong, believable attorneys and witnesses.

## Woodside Mock Trial—cont'd

Mock trial is designed to introduce students to our legal system by providing a challenging, academic competition. The program offers students an opportunity for personal growth and achievement, emphasizing the importance of research, presentation, and teamwork.

In addition to teaching students about contemporary public issues and the legal system, the program encourages teachers and students to develop learning partnerships with professionals from the community. Lawyers from communities throughout Iowa contribute their time as coaches and judges at the tournaments.

Judges from Iowa's District Courts also participate. These linkages between the schools and the legal profession show students that the community is committed to their educational success.

Congratulations to Reilly Aagesen for being chosen by the judges as an "outstanding witness" for her portrayal of Christina Howard, and to Raegan Fitch as an "outstanding attorney" for her amazing closing argument for the defense.

## SCHOOL CLOSINGS

We encourage parents to plan ahead and designate an alternate destination for their children if school dismisses early or if school is cancelled for the day.

<u>Television:</u>	<u>AM Radio</u>	<u>FM Radio</u>
WHO Channel 13	WHO 1040 AM	KIOA 93.3 FM
KCCI Channel 8	KRNT 1350 AM	KSTZ Star 102.5 FM
WOI Channel 5	KPSZ 940 AM	KLTI Lite 104.1 FM
KDSM Fox 17	KWKY 1150 AM	KAZR Laser 103.3 FM

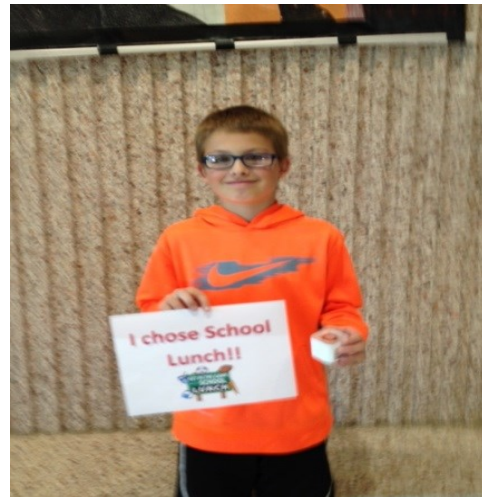
## National School Lunch Week 2014

The Saydel Community School District recognized National School Lunch Week from October 13-17, 2014. The theme, "Get in the Game with School Lunch" featured events and activities that promote the importance of balancing healthy eating with physical activity and exercise. Events were held in all 3 schools throughout the week. At Cornell students received stickers and pencils promoting healthy eating. Woodside students were able to watch an "active" movie (Air Bud, Rudy, Sandlot, etc) while eating lunch and had a chance to win an Ipod shuffle. Students at the Saydel High School were also given the opportunity to win an Ipod Shuffle and select groups could join students at Cornell elementary for lunch.

We had a great week! Over 50 adults ate school lunch with a child at Cornell on Wednesday plus more who came to join a student but did not eat. On Thursday, three high school students joined Cornell elementary students for lunch and had a great time interacting with the younger students. The week was finalized with the announcement of the Ipod Shuffle winners. Issac Miller, 6<sup>th</sup> grade student, won the Ipod Shuffle at Woodside and Nicolas Foster, 11<sup>th</sup> grade student, won the Ipod Shuffle at the Saydel High School. Winners were randomly chosen from those who ate a school lunch during National School Lunch Week.



Woodside Middle School Food Service Staff



Issac Miller, 6th grade I-pod winner



Nicholas Foster, 11th grade I-pod winner



Cornell Elementary Food Service Staff

Bring an adult to school lunch and eat school lunch!



Saydel High School Students at lunch at Cornell Elementary



SAYDEL COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT.....SERVING  
THE UNIQUE LEARNING NEEDS OF EACH AND EVERY  
STUDENT

**Saydel Board of Education**

Brian Bowman, President  
Paul Breitbarth, Vice President  
Ray Livingston  
Kyle Prendergast  
Melissa Sassman  
Rob Stephenson  
Henry Wood

School Board meetings are held at the Saydel District  
Office on the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m.



*Education for Leadership  
Learning for Life*

We're on the web  
[www.saydel.k12.ia.us](http://www.saydel.k12.ia.us)

**SCHOOL LISTINGS:**

**CORNELL ELEMENTARY**

Grades PK - 4  
5817 NE 3rd Street  
Des Moines, IA 50313  
PH: 515-244-8173  
Mrs. Deb Chiodo, Principal

**WOODSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Grades 5 - 8  
5810 NE 14th Street  
Des Moines, IA 50313  
PH: 515-265-3451  
Mr. Christopher Feldhans, Principal

**SAYDEL HIGH SCHOOL**

Grades 9 - 12  
5601 NE 7th Street  
Des Moines, IA 50313  
Ph: 515-262-9325  
Mr. Kevin Schulte, Principal  
Mr. Adam Busch, Activities Director

**SAYDEL DISTRICT OFFICE**

Douglas Wheeler, Superintendent of Schools  
Ryan Eidahl, Business Manager  
Dr. Simone Alekno, Director of Curriculum  
Julie McKibben, Director of Student Services  
Amy A'Hearn, Director of Food Services  
5740 NE 14th Street  
Des Moines, IA 50313  
(515) 264-0866 FAX (515) 264-0869

**The District Office is adjacent to Woodside Middle School.**

**SAYDEL COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**5740 NE 14th STREET**

**DES MOINES, IA 50313**

**NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION**

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