



*From the desk  
of Ron Swier:*



Just a few reminders to seniors and parents of seniors: Free application week closes on Nov. 30.

Financial Aid Information night that was set for Dec. 18 has been postponed with new day yet to be determined.

## ORDER YOUR *Yearbook*

**The 2023-2024 Corsica-Stickney yearbooks are on sale.**

If you would like to purchase a yearbook please send a check for \$40. (\$47 if you would like to have your name printed on them). Yearbooks will be delivered at school in August 2024. We do not have any over runs so you must place an order to ensure a yearbook. We appreciate your generous support of this program. You may submit a check to the elementary office, high school office or Mrs. Strid. If you have any questions you can email Mrs. Strid at [tina.strid@k12.sd.us](mailto:tina.strid@k12.sd.us) or call the school. Orders are due on December 8th.



Pictured right is Pipestone representative Lynn Gregerson, presenting a generous gift to Principal Ferra Kemp and Grade School Counselor Mica Foxley for the C/S Elementary Backpack Blessings Program in conjunction with Blessings Repeated in Plankinton that distributes food bags to needy families in the area. Pipestone is a pork facility located near Armour, SD. Below is the note that accompanied the check.

### Greetings!

PIPESTONE has been serving our mission of Helping Farmers Today Create the Farms of Tomorrow since 1942. Over the last 80+ years, PIPESTONE has evolved to provide resources and expertise pig health, management, nutrition, research, and business. Today, PIPESTONE proudly works with over 1,100 family farmers across the Midwest from our five office locations and the 70 sow farms we manage on behalf of family farmers.

One of our managed sow farms is in your community. Goose Lake 1 is located in Armour and employs 13 team members. The team at Goose Lake 1 would like to donate \$1,000 to the Backpack Blessings program to support the Corsica-Stickney Elementary School where the children of their families and friends may attend.

One of PIPESTONE's core values is caring. Caring for our people, communities and consumers. We aim to support local programs that focus on children and hunger. Thank you for your help in making a difference in these children's lives.



# Title I Tidbits

Happy  
Holidays!



We are now in the time of year that we find ourselves inside more spending quality time with our families. This is a great time to engage in some family friendly activities that promote literacy. There is plenty of research that says that children raised in homes that promote family literacy grow up to be better readers and do better in school than children raised in homes where literacy is not promoted. **Why not give the gift of books instead of toys this holiday season!**

We know that promoting family literacy is important to future reading and school success. While family literacy activities are often based in reading, there are lots of other ways families can implement literacy activities at home: through picture books, songs, poetry, storytelling, playing board or card games, visiting a library, and reading together.

Family literacy is defined as home literacy activities that provide literacy skill-building opportunities for young children while enhancing literacy skill development in all members of the family. These activities should be started as early as preschool and continue throughout High School. **Modeling reading to children is also important for literacy development at all ages.**

**Here is a list of board games that promote literacy (Reading and Math) for all ages**

Tall Tales	Scrabble	Old Maid	Phase 10
Sequence Letters	Monopoly	Go Fish	Rummikub
Sequence Junior	Boggle	Bingo	Sequence Numbers
Apples to Apples	Hedbanz	Yahtzee	Tenzi
Read My List	Dominoes	Memory	Quirkle
Outburst	Blurt!	Smart Mouth	Scattergories Jr.
Cranium Jr.	Zingo Bingo	Farkle	PayDay
Scattergories	Apples to Apples Jr.	Hi! Ho! Cherry-O	Boggle Jr.
Twister Scrabble	Head Full of Numbers	Proof!	Lady Bug Game
Snap if Up!	Sequence Letters	The Sneaky Snacky Squirrel	

All of these games are available on Amazon. Reading literacy involves phonics, decoding, fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, and writing. Math literacy involves number sense, problem solving, computation, and explanation. These are the skills that we teach in school and we hope you will help us reinforce them at home by taking the time to implement some family literacy activities in to your daily schedules. Our joint efforts will result in our students being more successful in our schools.

**All of us here at school wish you and your families a safe a happy Holiday Season!  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

# Veterans Day Program



Because of current construction project going on at the Elementary building, we did something a little bit different for this year's Veteran's Day program. Retired Major Tyler Gerlach, along with fellow Stickney Legionnaires, Marion Hargens, Jon Beckman, Lyle Bruinsma, Delayne Perrson and Roger VanDenOever, visited the Elementary School in Stickney and each veteran talked about their time in the service and explained to the students how great it is to live in America. They then presented a talk on the proper disposal of an unusable American flag and we all moved outside where they did a ceremony and burned some old flags as the students watched. The students, under the direction of Mrs. Kemp, sang a thank you song for the veterans and read about the history of Veteran's Day.





On November 8th Corsica-Stickney junior high and high school students were honored to have area Veterans come into school and share their military experience. Each Veteran lead small group conversations with students from grades 6th through 12th. In addition to their unique stories, each Vet brought with them pictures, artifacts from other countries, uniforms, medals, and many words of wisdom.

Veteran attending the event Back Row from Left: Dan Bosma, Jeris Timmermans, Dodie Chada, Wendy Barse, Jeff Hamburg

Front Row: Helen Vander Wal (Spouse of Verlin Vander Wal), Verlin Vander Wal, and Ben Lagge



# Corsica-Stickney Elementary

## Celebrates American Education Week

American Education Week was celebrated the week of November 13-17. American Education Week is a time to think about how well our schools are doing and how we can make them even better. It's a time to say a big thank you to all the people who work in schools, especially the support staff and substitute teachers. They work hard to deliver the best for our kids to ensure they learn and do well in school. Thank you to all of the important people contributing in our schools!

We kicked off the week honoring our Principal, Mrs. Kemp. All staff was treated to caramel rolls for breakfast. Tuesday we honored our parents and substitute teachers. Wednesday is designated as Educational Support Professionals Day. This day we honored all of our paraprofessionals, bus drivers, cooks, our counselor, speech therapist, janitor, and secretary. Thursday we honored all of our teachers. All of the above mentioned administration, educational support professionals, and teachers received a card and a small treat. Friday we honored all the students here at Corsica-Stickney Elementary. The students received a cookie for being "Smart Cookies."

American Education Week is a nationwide event that honors the dedication and hard work of educators and education support professionals. It emphasizes the value of a quality education and the need for collaboration among teachers, parents, and the community to ensure student success.

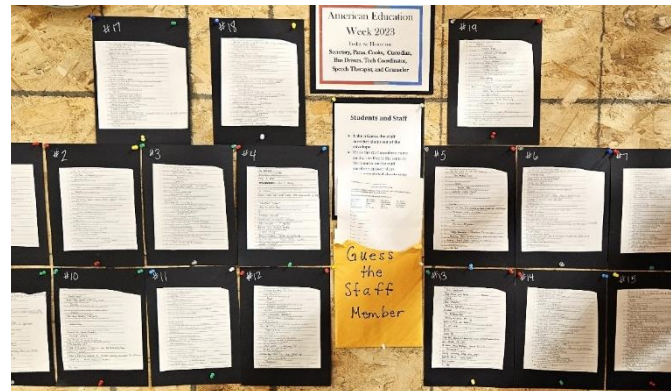
On Tuesday we received notice that Corsica-Stickney Elementary was chosen as one of the U.S. News and World Report 2024 Best Elementary School. The news is good for Corsica-Stickney Elementary - 02: Our school ranked #9 which placed us among the top 40% of elementary schools in the state of South Dakota, making it a U.S. News Best Elementary School. Here is a link to the report: <https://www.usnews.com/education/k12/south-dakota/school-206106>

## Overview of Corsica-Stickney Elementary - 02

Corsica-Stickney Elementary - 02 is a public school located in Stickney, SD, which is in a remote rural setting. The student population of Corsica-Stickney Elementary - 02 is 177 and the school serves PK-6. At Corsica-Stickney Elementary - 02, 72% of students scored at or above the proficient level for math, and 72% scored at or above that level for reading.

The school's minority student enrollment is 8%. The student-teacher ratio is 14:1, which is worse than that of the district.

The student population is made up of 51% female students and 49% male students. The school enrolls 9% economically disadvantaged students. There are 12 equivalent full-time teachers and 0 full-time school counselors.



## At a Glance

Student/Teacher Ratio  
**14:1**

Math Proficiency  
**72%**

Reading Proficiency  
**72%**

## Ranking Factors

How Corsica-Stickney Elementary - 02 placed statewide out of 207 schools ranked in South Dakota.

Reading Proficiency Rank ⓘ #11 (tie)

Math Proficiency Rank ⓘ #16 (tie)

Reading Performance ⓘ Well Above Expectations

Math Performance ⓘ Well Above Expectations

Students and staff got to have some fun trying to "guess the person" by reading their answers to several questions about themselves.



# Oral Interp



Corsica-Stickney's oral interpretation team performed at the District contest held at the River Tree Church in Mitchell, South Dakota, on Wednesday, November 8.

Karen Go's solo poetry piece as well as Jaxson Muck and Tanner Bartelt's duet humorous piece, unfortunately, did not move past districts and qualify for regions. Each of these performers and both of these pieces made significant progress over the season, and we are proud of how they represented our school and extracurricular.

Jaxson Muck, Tanner Bartelt, Connor Strid, Jett Kemp, Ali Wiczorek, and Cali Vanden Hoek's ensemble readers theater piece did move past districts and qualified for regions, that was held on November 14, at the First United Methodist Church in Mitchell, South Dakota. The group unfortunately did not move on to State, but made considerable progress throughout the year. They are under the direction of Cassidy Kerner.

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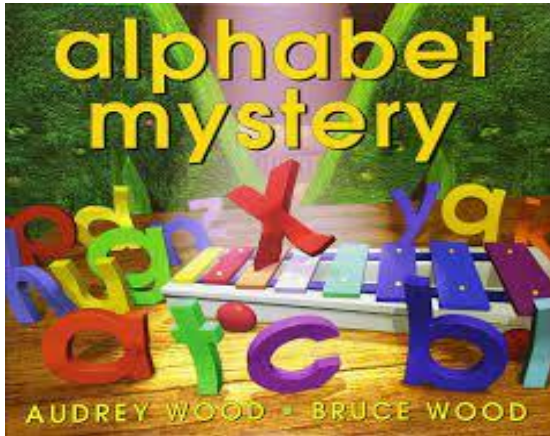
# FCCLA

Corsica-Stickney FCCLA sponsored a Trunk or Treat event on October 28th. Connor Strid chose to hold a Trunk or Treat event as his FCCLA STAR event (Students Taking Action with Recognition) project. Seventeen different organizations, businesses and families sponsored a trunk. Over one hundred thirty trick-or-treaters ventured to the event. Connor will complete in the FCCLA Chapter Service category at the FCCLA state meeting in April.

Thank you to everyone for your support.



# Preschool Transition Night



November 6th our Fall Preschool Transition Night was held at the Corsica-Stickney Elementary lunchroom. All students who will turn 4 by Sept. 1, 2024 were invited to attend. Our Title I program coordinates this night by having a Fall and a Spring Transition Night for our incoming Preschool students. We bring them in and read a story, do a craft, and sing some songs. They also get a chance to meet their teacher and other school personnel. This gives them a chance to get used to our school and being together as a group. The students were sent home with some activities to practice including, cutting, tracing lines, and coloring.

We will have another Preschool Transition Night in April of 2024. This is the time the parents will fill out registration papers to get them all ready for school in the fall. If you know of any potential students who will qualify for Preschool in the fall of 2024, please contact the Elementary School office so we can get them on our list and update our records.

# JH Music Festival



Every year, Junior High band and choir students are selected to perform in the Region V Junior High Music Festival. Students traveled to Platte on November 14<sup>th</sup>, where they worked all morning with guest conductors and practiced with students from 23 other schools. Each group performed 5 songs as well as a drum line group performing 2 drum cadences for their friends and family. Mrs. Miranda Paulson accompanied the students.

Top right: **Band**- back row: Brooke Howard, Elizabeth Bultje, Remi Nelson, Chasity De Beer, & Paityn Juhnke  
Front row: Piper Juhnke, Charlie Lefers, Graham Van Genderen, & Owen Boyle.

Right: **Choir**-back row: Emily Beckman, Brailey Mulder, Max Vanden Hoek, Jaeryn Denning, Aspen Bosma, & Hadynn Johnson  
Front row: Lexi Gerlach, Brooks Blom, & Korbin Gahl.



Progress continues...



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**Author Study:** As a staff this school this year we decided to focus on literacy in the classroom and every month we have a different activity we do to improve literacy. This month, Third, Fourth, and Fifth grade students did an author study on Beverly Cleary. They had to collaborate with each other and read different stories written by that author. Below is a picture of their finished book reviews surrounding a pieced together picture of Cleary.

