Principal’s Pride
By now everyone is aware that I will be retiring at the end of this school year, but I will still be here through July. I have been with OPS for thirty-one years, with ten years as a teacher, and twenty-one as a principal. I have been blessed with the opportunity to create this unique, innovative school. My goal is to help make a smooth transition to new leadership that will enable the school to continue the strong traditions of academic success that we have developed. Leaving at this point will enable me to concentrate on health, family and pursue other opportunities and challenges. Our students and families are the best around.

VEX Robotics At Dundee Elementary – Students Bring Home Trophy
Our robotics teams were having technical difficulties at the Dundee meet and didn’t place in the matches. We still received a first place team trophy called the Research Project Award, which is awarded to the team for the best interview about the process and the robot. Nice work Lions! We have since replaced some parts and are ready for the regionals at North High.

State Scores Are Out And Wilson Focus Is Up In All Areas!
The state NSCAS scores are out and we did an amazing job! Our ELA/reading score went up from 51.5 to 57.6 with a 6.1 increase. Math was baseline and is up to 54.2 and our science is still high at 76.7 with a 4.6 increase. Our students are showing excellent growth and increases! Thanks go to our staff, students and families for doing such an amazing job!

Celebrating National School Counselors Week – Thanks Dr. Pam!
This was National School Counseling Week and we want to take a moment to thank our amazing counselor Dr. Pam for working pro-actively with our students to help them succeed. She has been doing amazing as part of our leadership team and our hat’s off for all her work.

Students Compete In Geography Bee Coordinated By Senorita Rodda
Again this year, our students in grades 4-6 grade had the opportunity to participate in the Geography Bee sponsored by the National Geographic Society. Ten students participated in the school finals. Initial qualifying competitions were held at each grade level. Those qualifying for the finals were Samuel Kimbril, Blake Chamberlin, Shane Beltz, Morgan Grnfke-Leak, Sadie Larkin, Noah Smith, Saul Perez-Degante, Kaeden Carlson, Mekhi Sanders and Oliver Sanchez-Trejo. Congratulations to our school champion, Noah Smith. Oliver Sanchez-Trejo took second place and Shane Beltz placed third.

Students Take The NAEP Today – National Assessment Of Educational Progress
We are excited to announce that our school was chosen by the state to participate in the 2019 National Assessment Of Educational Progress (NAEP). It is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what students across the country know and can do in a variety of subject areas. Our 4th graders have been selected to take progress assessments in mathematics and reading. The 4th graders will take this test on February 11th. Show that Lion Pride!

AQuESTT Scores Are Out And Our School Has Been Classified As Great By The State
In the past our school has been rated Excellent by the state. This time around we had to answer more questions and submit evidence under each tenant to substantiate our ranking. At this point we are listed as Great. We are still waiting the final classification, which should be coming out soon.

Calendar Of Events:  Also Check Under Organizations-Parents Pride on our website
February 9 – VEX Robotics Regions At North High
February 15 – Parents Pride Valentines Day Parties, 2:15 PM
February 18 – President’s Day – No School
February 19 – Parents Pride Skate Daze Party, 6:00-8:00 PM
March 4-7 – Scholastic Book Fair
March 5, 6 – 3:30 PM Dismissal – No Enrichment
March 5,6 – Lunch With Loved Ones
March 6 - Conferences, 4:00-7:00 PM
March 7 – AM Teacher Work Day – Conferences 12:00-7:00 PM
March 8 – Teacher Work Day – No Students
March 11-22 – Spring Break – No School
Visitors Check-In Through The Office
A quick reminder: Remember to check-in at the office and obtain a visitors badge from the office before visiting classrooms. Ms. Carole will buzz you into the office, have you sign the check-in log an issue you a badge. Thank you. We appreciate your assistance in keeping your children safe.

All City Brings On The Music
Last weekend was the All City Music Concert and students from all OPS had the opportunity to show their talent with vocals, band and strings. Thanks go to Ms. Pearce and Mr. Gruber from our school and Linda Hulsey and Ann Davis from central office for coordinating a magnificent concert.

Third Grade Applications/Siblings
The Wilson Focus School is accepting applications for the 3rd grade lottery for 2019-2020. The school is 3-6th and is open to all 11 districts. Please visit our website at: wilsonfocus.ops.org If you have a sibling that will be in 3rd grade next year be sure to let Ms. Carole know. Forms are due.

Youth Art Month Billboard Coming Soon
Once again, we have an anonymous donor who has purchased a Youth Art Month Billboard for us. That means, Mrs. Deutsch will be able to submit student’s artwork for a billboard design, representing our school and, of course, celebrating Youth Art Month. We will keep you in the loop once a selection is made.

Check Out Our Book About Wilson
You can see our book at the iBook’s Store entitled: “Wilson Focus School: Celebrating A New Dawn In Leadership, Technology & Communication.” Make sure to check it out! It is free and outlines our eleven year success!

Disney Musical Coming
Ms. Pearce is working on the Disney Musical and this year it is going to be “Aristocats.” Watch for more details coming.

Snow Day Reminders
Just a quick reminder. Remember to watch the news and listen to the radio when the weather is bad. They try to cancel school, if needed, very early in the am or the evening before. It is the parent’s responsibility to watch for school closings. If you drive up to our building and don’t see many cars in the parking lot please make sure to check and find out if there is actually school. We would hate for any of our students to be locked out in the cold and unable to get in.

Sydney In District Spelling Bee
In December, we hosted our All School Spelling Bee in our gym. The individual classroom winners were: Gabi Barajas, Colin Hanes, David Huett, Leo Cervantes Beltran, Payton Clark, Sydney Gniffke-Leak, Tierney Coughlin, Ruth Gardner, Avalon Sperry, Paw Lah Htoo, Daja Hubbard and Melissa Rodriguez. Our winner ended up being Sydney Gniffke-Leak with the runner-up being Avalon Sperry. Sydney competed in the District Spelling Bee at TAC this week and made it to the fourth round. Congratulations! Here’s to a job well done!

Be An Attendance H.E.R.O.
Be an Attendance Hero! (Here, Everyday, Ready, On Time). Mrs. Moats is coordinating our Attendance Team, and is working hard to make sure all students are here every day. We want to make sure individual students are not missing school. Help us to get your children to school every day. The more they are here, the more they can learn, and the better they do in school. We look forward to seeing students every day!

Omaha Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, citizenship status, veteran status, political affiliation or economic status in its programs, activities and employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individual has been designated to accept allegations regarding non-discrimination policies: Superintendent of Schools, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-9822). The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director for the Office of Equity and Diversity, 3215 Cuming St, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-9307).