

EAGLE PROFILE

The Official Newsletter of USD 303

Scholars Bowl Concludes Successful Season

The Ness City High School Scholars Bowl team wrapped up the 2016-17 season with a 6th place finish at Regionals on February 2. The team advanced to finals as one of the top three teams in their pool. The high school team had 21 students compete in at least one meet and the season included a second place finish at the Ellis meet. The Junior High Scholars Bowl team concluded their 2016-17 season by earning 2nd place at the CPL meet on March 6. The come from behind silver medal performance included back to back last question wins. During the season 18 different students participated in Scholars Bowl. Season highlights also included a varsity 2nd place performance at the LaCrosse meet as well as the 7th grade claiming 3rd place in their final meet at Sacred Heart Ness City. Overall during the season the Scholars Bowl teams showed great growth and progress with an incredible potential to compete in years to come.



FFA Members Stay Busy

“You may outgrow the jacket, but you will never outgrow the experience,” is this year’s theme for the Ness City FFA Banquet, which will be held on Friday, May 12th. We are asking previous FFA members to come and bring their FFA Jacket. We would like to connect with FFA Alumni and encourage them to come to the Banquet with their family. If you have questions or would like more information you can contact the Ness City FFA Advisor, Jennifer Stoss at the school.

Along with our excitement for Banquet, members are preparing for State Contests. The members have been putting many long hours in all year to prepare for state contests at the beginning of April. We have four teams competing, including a Floriculture team, Agriculture Communications team, Food Science team and an Entomology team. These teams did very well at their district contest, placing third or better. The students going to state include;



2nd Place JH CPL Scholars Bowl Team



Trace, Savannah, Jaymi and Angelena showing off the medals they won at the Dodge City meet on March 6.

NCHS 4n6

Speech and Drama, a.k.a. Forensics, allows students to practice communication skills in a competitive environment, which helps develop skills they will need as adults in the workforce. It is a team activity, but like track and field, events are individual. This year, the NCHS Speech and Drama squad has ten members who have competed at various tournaments. Members include, Trace Flax, Jaymi Stewart, Angelena Copeland, Kyla Stephen, Cicely Moody, Jocelyn Walker, Landon Reinhardt, Alysso Fooks, Savannah Moore, and Abby Cardenas. Jaymi Stewart has qualified for State Champs with both her serious and humorous solos. Angelena (poetry), Alysso (prose), Landon and Cicely (IDA) have qualified for State Festival in their events. The students have competed at six meets so far and have CPL League Forensics on March 29 and Regional Forensics in April remaining to qualify for state. Break a leg, forensicators!

Virginia Schaben, Kenzee Cupp, Savannah Moore, Jaiden Pavlu, Madison Seery, Trace Flax, Westin Slagle, Taylor Murray, Mario Luna, Kerri Bruntz and Jocelyn Walker.

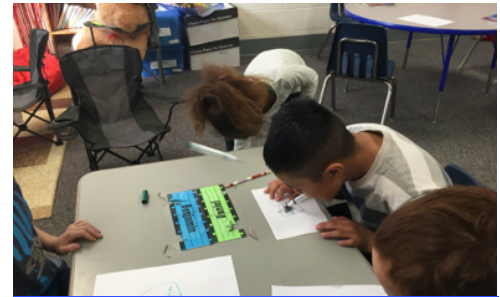
FFA Week was February 20th- February 25th. Our FFA Week started off with a special Pledge of Allegiance Ceremony done by the Ness City FFA Officers. We also had several other events like, our annual Agriculture Awareness Day followed by our Community Breakfast. We had themes for each day, an emblem search and many more. We also had a visit from two Kansas State FFA Officers for a day. Throughout the week we collected money for Pennies for Pets. Each teacher had a penny jar, the teacher with the most money at the end of the week had to kiss an animal at our Agriculture Awareness Day. The winning teacher was Coach Cowles, who kissed a donkey. All together we raised and donated \$200 to the Golden Belt Humane Society. Some FFA members personally delivered the check and helped at the shelter.

With the recent fires, FFA has been scouting out opportunities to help locals affected by the tragedy. If you, or someone you know needs help, please contact Jennifer Stoss at the school and let her know. Jaiden Pavlu, an active Ness City FFA Member, has been working on a project to challenge Kansas FFA to volunteer and raise money. If you want to learn more, please contact the chapter.



“WE ARE THE EAGLES, WATCH US SOAR”

The title “*We Are The Eagles, Watch Us Soar*” is our Character Education motto for the Ness City Elementary Building. Mr. Schulte’s sixth graders are credited for brainstorming this. In order for us to “soar,” one of the most important aspects of succeeding is CHARACTER EDUCATION. Over the years, *character education* has been called by many names including *civic education, virtues, morals, and many more.* Benjamin Franklin once said, “...nothing is of more importance for the public weal (well-being), than to form and train up youth in wisdom and virtue.” This quote is still important today at NCES. We take pride in the respectful and productive behavior of our students. From preschool to sixth grade, character education lessons are given for teaching **Responsibility, Respect, Citizenship, Caring, Trustworthiness, Courage, Work, Fairness, Honesty** and more. We are the Eagles, And our students are Soaring!



Miss Heim’s second graders working on an “empathy” lesson

**Provide support
guidance
limits for your teen.
Not alcohol.**

Teens look to their parents for guidance and, believe it or not, trust what they say. When you set limits, you set the tone for a lifetime of wise choices. Talk. *It Matters.*



NCES Students Take on New Writing Program

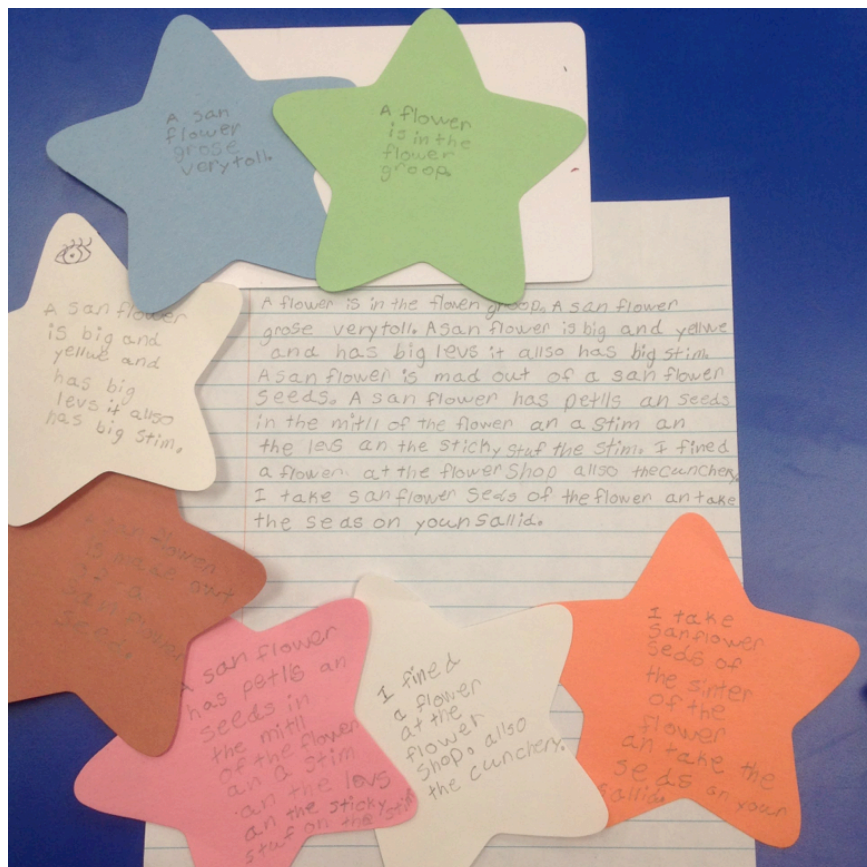
Mr. Reinhardt has always challenged us to step outside our comfort zones. This year I made the leap into a new writing program and have seen great gains with my students' writing. I found the program, called the Expanding Expressions Tool, at the end of the 2014-2015 school year. I started using parts and pieces during the year last year. Upon seeing the gains in writing in just using those parts, I asked for the entire program and have implemented it this year with my third and fourth grade students.

The EET uses colors to anchor student writing. At the beginning, the students are introduced to "Eechy" the Inchworm. Each of his parts represents the cue for the student. The students begin the program describing pictures and objects orally. The program scaffolds the descriptions until the student can produce a written paragraph. Once paragraphs are strong, the anchors can be used in report writing in the upper grades.

My students have gone from writing phrases and just a handful of sentences about a topic to writing full paragraphs using the EET. Now that they are familiar with the process, I am excited to see how much farther out of our writing comfort zone we can go next year.



Eechy the Inchworm



NCHS Cheerleaders

We started our season this summer with cheerleading clinics through the Recreation Commission for girls preschool-6th grade! In late August, along with the junior high cheerleaders, we traveled to Dodge City for a KSHSAA Cheer Clinic where we learned a dance that we performed at a football game! We hosted a bonfire at the fairgrounds, a parade in front of the school to end a great Homecoming week and a Send Off as our basketball boys left for the state tournament! The high school cheerleaders also worked hard to choreograph two dances to teach our Future Eagles and performed along with them; once at a football game and once at a basketball game. We had a blast creating a fun Christmas dance that the girls performed right before Christmas break! Thank you cheerleaders for an amazing season and for taking me in as your coach. Also, a huge thank you to the community for all of your support for our Eagles this year!! Once an Eagle, always an Eagle.



JUNIORS ATTEND COUNTY GOVERNMENT DAY

On Tuesday, March 14, 2017, the Ness City High School Juniors attended County Government Day at the Ness County Courthouse. This annual program, which is sponsored by the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, allows students to actively participate in the day-to-day activities of their county government. Students were allowed to choose the county office they felt would personally be of the most interest. Each student then spent the morning shadowing that county official. Sheriff Bryan Whipple also allowed all of the students to tour the Ness County Jail. The Legion Auxiliary provided lunch at the Community Building, and the

afternoon was spent observing Motion Day with District Judge Bruce Gatterman. Eight students were allowed to observe the court proceedings from the jury box.

A huge thank you goes out to the county employees, the American Legion, and the American Legion Auxiliary for hosting this educational program each year .



Mrs. Joby Henning, Clerk of the District Court, shares old court records with Kerri Bruntz and Alejandra Gomez on County Government Day.



Several members of the Government class were selected to view the court proceedings during County Government Day

Strength of USD #303 Community Shines Through Haiti Science Kit Project

During the fall 2016 semester Mr. Clay’s 8th grade science classes made plans and set fundraising goals to be able send science experiments and supplies to students at Christianville School in Gressier, Haiti.

Eighth grader Braeden Miller said, “Doing this for Haiti makes me feel good about myself, because I like to help other people when they are in need.”

As the project entered 2017 it became apparent that USD #303 community could come together to make the project successful as Mrs. Buethe’s 3rd grade and Mr. Schulte’s 6th grade created their own fundraisers to support the effort.

Eighth grader Matthew Delaney said of the support from the elementary students, “I think it’s good that we got some littler kids helping us raise money so they will have more experience.” 8th grader Edwin Reyes added, “I also hope that they [students in Haiti] keep learning from our and other people’s project so they can make a difference in their community.”

Of the community support for the project Mr. Clay said, “I have been overwhelmed by the support we have received from the elementary students and community. What has been wonderful for me to see is that this project has been made better by others working on it. Things that are weaknesses for me, others have stepped up and done. Since I first visited this Christianville School five years ago I have known that I wanted to do something to help. These students have done so much more than I could have ever dreamed of doing on my own.”

The Haiti Science Kit project is far from over. As the school year enters the last few months, the 8th grade will be ordering and packing supplies to ensure they arrive in Haiti safely. Those who would still like to donate can at www.gofundme.com/haitisciencekit. The students had also planned on having to purchase suitcases for packing and shipping the supplies. Community members who would like to donate a suitcase (checked baggage size) could do so to greatly help out.

“Even” English (8, 10, & 12)

In the blink of an eye, the third quarter has come and gone! Each of the even-numbered English classes in the middle and high school have spent the third quarter with a close-study of literature, creative and informative writing, and a great deal of analytical contemplation.

Eighth graders started the second semester with a class study of Lois Lowry’s *The Giver*. This novel follows a teenage boy who is living in the seemingly “perfect” world -- that is, it seems perfect until he discovers that nobody in his society has the freedom to make their own choices. Students enjoyed reading about the main

character's corrupt world and made connections to our own world and freedom of choice. They followed up the reading of this novel by creating dioramas, writing alternative endings, developing soundtracks, and making collages for the book. We then spent some time evaluating peers' projects and offering feedback as students conducted a gallery walk.

Sophomores delved into a challenging but timeless classic -- *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee. Though the start was a bit slow, many were quickly engrossed by Scout's childish shenanigans and the unjust trial of Tom Robinson. Before and during our reading of the novel, we focused specifically on one major idea: How are our identities formed and changed over time, and what has a greater impact on our personal identities -- our views of ourselves, or society's views of who we are? Students started blogs, composed narratives about personal life experiences, and took a closer look at the flaws in our own culture in order to brainstorm ways we can all improve.

Seniors picked up where we left off at the end of the first semester -- in the midst of *The Canterbury Tales*. After a close study of two pilgrims' narratives, students composed their own original tales in small groups. Though the writing assignment was challenging, students rose to the occasion and had some thrilling original stories to share with the whole group as we trekked to The Cactus Club for breakfast one morning on our own "pilgrimage." The group unanimously agreed: the several weeks of writing was worth the delicious breakfast burritos and biscuits and gravy!



Seniors enjoying the feast portion of the [Canterbury Tales!](#)

Random Thoughts from Mr. Flax

- We are making some changes to our internet filter for school owned, student used devices (chromebooks). This change will be occurring right after spring break. The filter that we are moving away from only could filter our network here at school, so when the device is at your home, there were limited controls in place. The new filter that we are "test driving" for the rest of the school year will filter the device no matter what network it is connected to. It will take some time to fine tune what is blocked and allowed as this is new to us also. Our hope is this will help you at home be assured that your child is not misusing their device.
- Career Fair was a big hit! Many thanks to all of the local businesses, local sponsors, area colleges and tech schools that participated in the 1st annual career fair held here in February. I especially want to thank Golden Belt Telephone, Ness County Chamber of Commerce, and the Ness County Economic Development department that organized the event. I hope that this becomes an annual event that we can help grow for our students!
- Possible changes coming to KSHSAA classifications? I am privileged to have been appointed to serve the Kansas State High School Activity Association (KSHSAA) on both the Board of Directors and the Executive Board. One really big item that has been in the works this past year and half is a revamping of the entire system of classifications for all school activities. If you would like to learn more about what may happen and when it will be voted on, please visit the KSHSAA website at www.kshsaa.org. There is a link at the bottom of the main page with all of the proposals and how it could affect each sport or activity. How would these new proposals potentially affect Ness City High? If our current numbers stay the same, then most likely, our classification would not change. However, we would move closer to the 2A/1A cut line, therefore, a drop in enrollment could mean a change in class.
- As we move closer to the end of the school year, I encourage all students to finish strong! Inevitably, once we return from spring break, kids (and adults) get to looking forward to summer and sometimes lose focus on school. I just like to remind everyone, that this final quarter is just as important as the first

three. Parents, please continue to encourage your students to do their best at school. This time of year always reminds me of one of my favorite quotes: “What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it” (author unknown). Thank you and Have a great spring break!

Kindergarten

Kindergarten has not only been busy learning how to read and add, but also learning life skills such as: collaboration, problem solving, communication, critical thinking, leadership, and project management.



“Big Smelly Bear” – Student designed and created back scratchers.



“If I Build a House” – Created a house from different materials.



“The Box Project” – Each group designed and created an object out of a box. Groups created: a TV with remotes, a cat and cat house, a coo-coo clock, a house, a rocket, and an helicopter

MUSIC FESTIVAL RESULTS

The feeling of spring is in the air and that means it is music festival time again. The 6th-8th grades participated in the LaCrosse Music Festival held on March 3rd and competed very well. There were a total of 39 entries. We received twenty-four I ratings, fourteen II ratings and one III rating. The following students received I ratings: Andrea Lopez - clarinet, Evan Carter - snare, Alfonso Luna - trumpet, Jay Cupp - bari sax, Alexa Reinhardt - vocal and flute, 7th/8th Girls Ensemble, Taylor Starr - vocal, Caidyn Horton - vocal, Tristan Schwein - vocal and trombone, 7th/8th Woodwind Ensemble, Avril Garcia - vocal, 7th Boys Ensemble, Sapphira Bailey - flute and vocal, Audrey Pavlu - vocal, 6th Grade

Vocal Ensemble, 6th Grade Brass Ensemble, Caitlin Smee - trombone, Jenna Strickler - alto sax, Devyn Braun - trombone and Rylee O'Banion - flute. The Junior High Band and the Junior High Choir both received II ratings. Other students receiving II ratings were Amy Foos - trombone, 7th/8th Brass Ensemble, Andrea Lopez - vocal, Gwendolyn Copeland - vocal and trumpet, Rylee O'Banion - vocal, Cynthia Guzman - vocal, 8th Boys Ensemble, Janate' Kerr - vocal, Taylor Crosswhite - clarinet, 6th Grade Instrumental Ensemble, and the 6th grade Woodwind Trio.

The high school band and choir participated in the CPL Music Festival held in Great Bend on March 7th. Those receiving I ratings were the Girls Vocal Trio (Jaymi, Makenzie and Jaiden), Jaiden Pavlu - vocal, Makenzie Flax - vocal, and Trevor VanDegrift - vocal. Those receiving two ratings were the Mixed Vocal Ensemble, Trace Flax - vocal, Jaymi Stewart - vocal and clarinet, Clay Buetler - baritone, Austin Snodgrass - French Horn and Robert Wierman - trombone. Their next competition will be Regional Music Festival held on March 1 in Larned, KS. A I rating at Regionals will advance them to the State Music Festival held on April 29th.

It's Their Business!! Guest Editorial by Kevin Honeycutt

As colleagues, Ginger Lewman and I have been visiting and sharing ideas with Ness City schools many amazing things have happened. One of those things is a bright light called the Mass Production class, soon to be renamed so as to involve the word entrepreneur. That renaming is important because that's what kids in Mr. Kerr's class are challenged to become. Kansas schools are focused on career pathways and preparing kids for success in the future and one of those pathways is an entrepreneurial one. Ness City Superintendent Derek Reinhardt is keenly aware of the goals of Kansas education but more importantly Mr. Reinhardt gets it. He knows that our primary job as educators is to prepare kids for success in an ever-changing world. To that end he brings in outside thinking to challenge his already innovative faculty in his Pre-K-12 schools. One example of innovative curriculum are the six student run business concerns operating out of Mr. Kerr's classroom and woodshop. NessEssCity clothing is a clothing startup run by two young men in the class and their leveraging of online services, social media, available potential workforce and creativity is quickly becoming something really exciting. The boys don't actually make the clothes, they outsource production to a nice lady and stellar seamstress back in Inman, Kansas. Location isn't relative to today's innovative design and business processes, what really matters is communication, collaboration and coordination. One of the things these kids are learning to do is direct their efforts over distance and multiple online platforms. Imagine a school where these skills are being used to prepare kids for future success while they are still in school! Years ago I started working on designs for a steampunk guitar and recently the project came to fruition when CMG Guitars in Statesboro, Georgia took on the task of building the guitar of my imagination and dreams. While I love this guitar there was always something missing and this was a steampunk amplifier to complete the package. I tossed this idea to Mr. Kerr's class and amazingly one of his intrepid students was willing and excited to take on the challenge. He is working with Mr. Kerr to design and build a one-off product for me that fits the sensibility of the steampunk aesthetic. Using an antique film projector and all of the associated parts, they are combining the guts of a powerful amp with the package of handmade steampunk creativity to deliver to me this missing piece for my creative endeavors! I expect to have this amplifier in my hands by the end of the school year. In all cases I pay for these products. The kids and I negotiate a price in consultation with Mr. Kerr and other school leaders and we set a deadline for delivery. It is also crucial for the kids to teleconference with me as the products evolve. They must always ensure that their customer is still onboard with the direction



Brent Kerr is our partner in this venture of starting and growing a class that mints new entrepreneurs.



Who do I trust to build an amplifier for the coolest steampunk guitar on the planet? The inventors and entrepreneurs from Ness City of course. They are retrofitting an antique 8mm film projector and case and turning it into an amplifier complete with radio vacuum tubes and steam pipes and valves.

of the product and the qualities it will demonstrate upon delivery. One of the learning curves has been the constant need, beyond school hours to communicate with customers and collaborate toward the outcome. School hours weren't designed for global collaboration so we are learning to make exceptions and sometimes even new rules. One of the powerful drivers of innovation is recognized, human need. As we task kids with looking, researching and observing the changing world around them we challenge them to identify need as an initiator of invention and design. To that end, we recognized that many parents travel for their jobs and as a result spend a lot of time away from their very young children. This kind of thinking has led to the development and imminent delivery of the first prototype of the Talk-N-Toy. This wooden toy holds your phone for teleconferences with babies and toddlers while protecting it from slobber and hangups. Initiate a call with Mom or Dad or Grandma and slide the phone into the cab behind a plexiglass windshield and let the meeting begin. This product or potential product one visible to a busy, traveling world has the potential to explode into production and delivery even though it started as a classroom project. This flirtation with actual success is crucial in making this program appealing to students, teachers and parents! Another entrepreneur group is working on the Trayble. Their product/invention is a detachable seat back table designed for the traveler with a lapchild. What their product offers is a smaller tray that won't hit the child in the head upon deployment as well as a platform on which to serve toys and cheerios. This soft plastic, padded product is an appropriate interface to use on a plane and may soon offer configurable games and activities with velcro pads so that Trayble can be adjusted and adapted to a child's changing attention/interest during the flight. Lastly but by no means leastly. Kids in several of Mr. Kerr's classes are building a tiny house. If you don't know what a tiny house is it is worth some Google time to find out. After making a pitch to their school board for venture capital and researching the industry and marketplace kids and teacher have taken off on an amazing journey of learning. My goal is to help inspire young people to start their own businesses. I want them to design products and services that serve the world while opening their eyes to the possibilities that await them as young entrepreneurs.



The Talk-N-Toy will let traveling people teleconference with babies and toddlers!

No more not using a tray table just because your traveling with a lap child!



The kids from NessEssCity Clothing have been designing shirts for me and many other potential customers. Using a service called Spoonflower, they are able to let customers choose their own images to print on their fabric and therefore purchase shirts with their own favorite images on them.

NCHS Entrepreneurs Perform Well at Challenge

The Ness City, Construction, and Entrepreneur classes competed in the Youth Entrepreneur Challenge in Jetmore on March 13th. They were tasked with submitting a budget, and an executive summary. They then went to Jetmore to give a three minute elevator pitch, and answer questions for the judges. All of the NCHS teams did well. The NCHS Tiny House group came in second place. The tiny house group will be entered for a wild card spot at the state Youth Entrepreneur Challenge at FHSU on April 25th.



Devin and Logan placed 2nd at the Challenge by presenting about the Tiny House project. They spent several hours outside of class preparing. They were awarded a \$500 prize and a wild card slot at the State Youth Entrepreneur Challenge for their hard work.

17/18 School Year Calendar Approved by USD 303 School Board

NESS CITY USD 303 2017-2018

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Day 30 Parent Teacher Conferences 10:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. Teachers work 8:00-8:30</p> <p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>15 Late Start – Teacher Inservice 22-24 Thanksgiving Vacation</p> <p>DECEMBER</p> <p>15 Late Start – Teacher Inservice End of 1st Semester 21 Teacher Work Day-No School Christmas Vacation</p> <p>JANUARY</p> <p>1-2 No School – Vacation 3 Teacher Work Day 4 1st day of 2nd semester 15 Teacher Inservice</p> <p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>14 Late Start – Teacher Inservice 19 No School – President's Day</p> <p>MARCH</p> <p>5 Parent Teacher Conferences 10:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. Teachers work 8:00-8:30 19 End of 3rd Nine Weeks 14 Late Start – Teacher Inservice 19-23 No School – Spring Break 30 No School – Good Friday</p> <p>APRIL</p> <p>2 No School – Vacation 18 Late Start – Teacher Inservice 27 No School – Vacation</p> <p>MAY</p> <p>13 Last Day of School 14 Teacher Inservice</p> <p>1st Day of Semester End of Semester Teacher Inservice P/T Conferences No School/Vacation Late Start</p> <p>Instructional Days (42) Aug. 17 – Oct. 17 1st Nine Weeks (43) Oct. 18 – Dec. 20 2nd Nine Weeks (44) Jan. 4 – Mar. 9 3rd Nine Weeks (45) Mar. 12 – May 23 4th Nine Weeks</p>	<p>JANUARY 2018</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>TH</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>FEBRUARY 2018</p> <table border="1"> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>TH</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> 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