



Smee School District 15-3

Wakpala Public School
12250 SD HWY 1806,
Wakpala, SD 57658
Telephone: 605-845-3040
Fax: 605-845-7244

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am excited for the new school year and wanted to take the opportunity to share some important back to school information. Wakpala Elementary has made some great gains academically in the last six years. The staff has worked extremely hard to implement both reading and math interventions along with strengthening our core subject areas. We have seen significant academic growth in our AIMSweb and Smarter Balanced Assessments.

An important part of what we do each day is the MTSS Programs. MTSS stands for Multi-Tiered System of Supports. There are 2 components that make up MTSS. Rtl (reading and math interventions) and PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports). The idea behind interventions is to identify skills students are missing and intervene to fill in the missing gaps. Students that are above grade level are also challenged because we have the ability to tailor our programs to meet every student's needs. We work hard to build a solid foundation in reading and math to prepare the students for the core curriculums. PBIS is a behavioral program that encourages students to make good decisions and choices. Students that have not had any behavioral write ups are rewarded with a special activity at the end of each month. Some examples of our end of the month incentives are kickball, Just Dance videos, board games, bingo and movies to name a few. The elementary staff is very creative and likes to have fun with the kids. Every student starts over at the beginning of each month in the PBIS program to earn the incentive.

Excellent attendance is extremely important. Our overall attendance has been fantastic and continues to improve! Not only will it help the students in school, it also improves our School Performance Index on our South Dakota State Report Card. Monthly treats are given for perfect attendance (0 days absence, 2 tardies per month are allowed). Students with 5 or less days of absence for the entire year will be invited to attend a swimming trip at the end of the school year. We took 2 bus loads of students to Aberdeen swimming last year and I'm hoping even more students qualify for the trip this year.

We have a wonderful group of dedicated teachers and staff to work with your children. They are excited and ready for another great year. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call or stop by to visit. With a good balance of hard work, motivation and fun, we will continue to see improvement. With your help, we will work hard to ensure your children have the brightest future possible. Below is a list of the teaching staff assignments for the 2018-19 school year.

Sincerely,

Ms. Knudson – Wakpala Elementary Principal

Kdgn – Mrs. Schlomer

1st Grade – Ms. Gipp

2nd Grade – Mrs. Wientjes

3rd Grade – Mrs. Stewart-Dame

4th Grade - Mrs. Griewski

5th Grade - Mrs. Good Shield

3-5 Grade Math – Mrs. Overland

6th Grade - Mrs. Hammer

7th Grade – Ms. Martel

Special Ed. Director – Mrs. Schmeichel

Elementary Para's – Lin Martian, Rosemary Shelley, Daryl Smith, Bonnie Swanson

PE – Mr. Souhrada

Lakota – Mrs. Smith

Library/Tech – Ms. Janson

AIMSweb Coordinator – Mrs. LeFebre

ISS Coordinator – Ms. Little Dog

Social Worker/Counselor – Mrs. Wolf Necklace

School Nurse – Mrs. Wolff

Title Teachers – Mr. Farnen/Mrs. Stewart-Dame

Elementary Special Education Teacher – Mrs. Fried

Wóuŋspe wašté hiyágleya! (*A good education leads to success!*)