ROOSTER TALES

March 2018

From the Desk of Larry Lysell

Greetings for March, everyone!

This month I thought I'd share some ideas from different school districts with you to demonstrate some of the innovation that many districts are initiating within the KESA academic endeavor in which all Kansas schools are now participating. I would initiate the correspondence by saying that when you receive this, our USD 269 On-site Visitation Team will have already attended it's 1st formal training session and will be well on it's way to good preparation in reaching our goals!

Our Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB), of which USD 269 has been a member almost since it's beginning, publishes a monthly magazine on what's happening across Kansas—these notes are from a special edition printed in February titled "New Day for Kansas Education—How School are Using New Resources." As the state trickles sorely needed new money into the school districts, all are targeting individual needs in their particular districts. I claim no originality in any of these ideas; they are totally from districts, large and small, across our state.

As many of you know, I live in my "off" time in Overland Park, a suburb of Kansas City, and the particular district of my location is *Blue Valley*. This district has chosen to enhance mental health services for its students, an obvious "hot topic" given the recent Florida school shooting and the relationship to mental health concerns of the alleged shooter. (Also, one of the State's goals is to increase Counselors in the schools by 150 a year.) *Olathe*, a separate city, yet attached to Blue Valley and Shawnee Mission, is looking at classroom focus beyond testing. The goal here is to develop a "pivot-point" between narrowly-focused standardized testing and creating well-rounded students who can thrive in the workplace and are good citizens.

There are mid-sized districts like *Ottawa* and *Abilene* with ideas, too. *Ottawa* wants to strive to prepare students for jobs and post-secondary. One goal is to help students break out of poverty through education. They are working on a country partnership to identify students for internships and work experience that can lead to a job as soon as a student graduates from high school. *Abilene* has developed a strategic plan that has the district poised to enter the states new accreditation system and focus on individual student needs. It has implemented a positive behavior system that rewards positive behavior rather than simply punishing bad behavior.

Smaller schools are working on improvement and one, *Fairfield* USD 310, is working off the positives of having just passed its first successful bond issue in decades. The *Fairfield* district is made up of six towns and is working on strengthening relationships with students, families and communities to boost the number of student seeking post-secondary education. They will be working on solving the issue of relating a very high (95%) graduation rate to a disappointing post-secondary effective rate of 43%. ("Effective rate" refers to success after high school in one's chosen area of futher education, be it college or

School.)

So, as you can see, there is a lot of initiative going on in Kansas. We're doing it, too, and the teachers and administrators are having to make adjustments, some more difficult that others. We will be keeping you up-to-date on our progress—this will be measured over five years, to include this year. We expect everyone to perform at a high level and look forward to giving you reports along the way!

I hope you all have a great entrance into spring—it's about time.! ...And, as always, if you have any questions, come by or give me a call on my cell if I'm out of town: 785.737.8106.

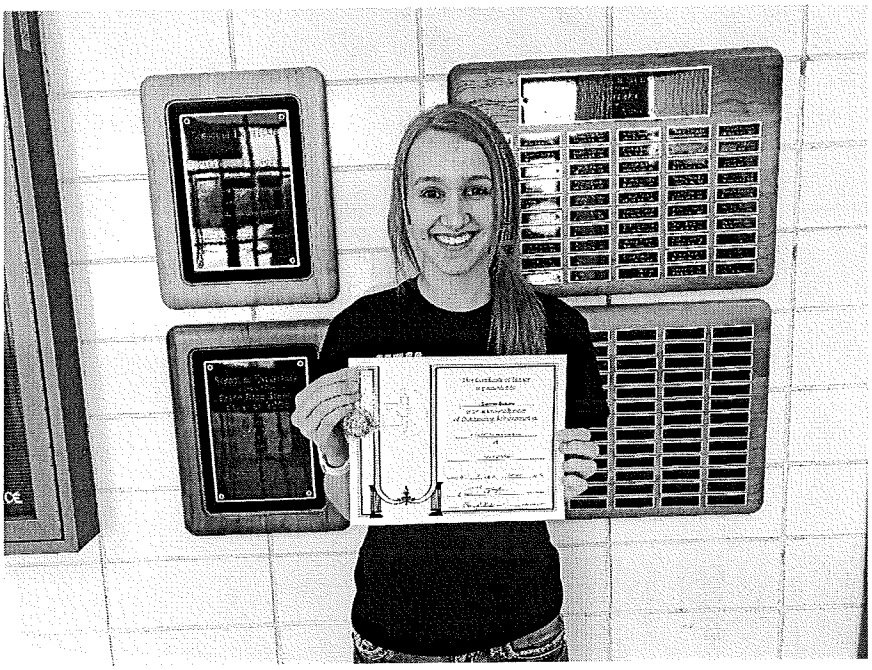
START YOUR DAY WITH A GOOD BREAKFAST

PROVIDING BREAKFAST is one of the best ways to help your child/children get a better education. Students who eat breakfast can concentrate better and retain more of the lessons they are taught. They are also less likely to suffer from anxiety and depression, require fewer visits to the doctor, and have fewer tardies and absences. Teachers have also reported seeing fewer behavior issues from student who have eaten breakfast.

Western Kansas Liberty League All-Academic Team

By Roger Morris

Each year the Western Kansas Liberty League selects an All-Academic Team consisting of seniors. To be selected to the All-Academic Team students are required to have participated in six (6) Kansas State High School Athletic Association sports activities and six (6) non-athletic league activities recognized by the Kansas State High School Athletic Association and the Kansas State Department of Education. Students must earn a grade point of 3.7 or better. Twenty-four (24) seniors were selected to the All-Academic Team . Desiree Desire, Palco High School senior, was selected to the 2018 Western Kansas Liberty League All-Academic Team.



Hays Regional Science Olympiad Results 2018

By Richard Robinson

Team placements: 1st -Goodland, 2nd –Hays High, 3rd –Hill City, 4th - Wichita County (Leoti) , 5th – Bennington, 6th-Palco , 7th-Skyline, 8th-TMP-M, 9th- Wilson, 10th-Russell, 11th- Sublette

Palco placing and participants:

1st place	
Hover craft:	David Thompson, Emily Eickleberry
Mousetrap Vehicle:	Blake Bouchey, Brady Bouchey
2nd place	
Write-it Do-it:	Shaylee Benoit, Riley Wells
3rd place	
Game on:	Trevor Funk, Lily Simoneau
Towers:	Blake Bouchey, Desi Desaire
4th place	
Disease Detectives:	Desi Desaire, Shaylee Benoit
Material Science:	Sorapat Salilampai
Mission Possible:	David Thompson, Trevor Funk
5th place	
Dynamic Planet:	Emily Eickleberry, Hayley Keller
Helicopters:	Blake Bouchey, Brady Bouchey
Remote Sensing:	Hayley Keller, Lily Simoneau
Thermodynamics:	Trevor Funk, Hayley Keller
6th place	
Herpetology:	Shaylee Benoit, Emily Eickleberry
Optics:	Arturo Cedillo, Sorapat Salilampai
7th place	
Chemistry Lab:	Arturo Cedillo, Trevor Funk
Fermi Questions:	Lily Simoneau, Riley Wells
8th place	
Anatomy and Phy:	Desi Desaire, Cassidy Pywell
Microbe Mission:	Cassidy Pywell, Brady Bouchey
Rocks and Minerals:	Shaylee Benoit, Emily Eickleberry
9th place	
Astronomy:	Lily Simoneau, Riley Wells
Ecology:	Shaylee Benoit, Riley Wells
Forensics:	David Thompson, Cassidy Pywell
11th place	
Experimental Design:	Blake Bouchey, Hayley Keller, Brady Bouchey

The 2018 team finished sixth at the Hays Regional. These students represented their school and communities well. We medaled in 5 of the 23 events (2 first places) and finished 5th or better in 12 events. The team will now have to wait until all of the regionals are done (February 24th) to see if they qualify for the state tournament in Wichita on April 7th.

Donor's Choose Projects Are Making a Big Difference in USD 269

by Shawna Noller

"Donor's Choose is an online charity on a mission to make it easy for anyone to help a classroom in need by allowing people to donate directly to classrooms." This is from the "About Us" section on Donor's Choose.org. A fantastic website several USD 269 teachers have utilized this year in order to supplement items in our classrooms. Through the efforts of dedicated teachers, we have been able to supply the following items at the elementary school alone: daily healthy snack options, personal hygiene kits for the upper elementary students, a brand new sandbox, a variety of flexible seating options in the 3/4/5 combo rooms, chess sets, student headphones, a 3D printer and a green screen set up which will allow the upper elementary students to write, direct and produce a weekly, district wide news broadcast.

The mission of Donor's Choose is "to make it easy for anyone to help a classroom in need, moving us closer to a nation where students in every community have the tools and experiences they need for a great education." Projects can be funded based off location, socioeconomic status and curricular area focus. Donor's Choose has a team of 80 staff members, many of who are former teachers, and they have fulfilled over 600,000 classroom project requests since its start in 2001.

You can find any of our currently posted projects at donorschoose.org and search by using the "Find A Classroom To Support" button which allows you to search by teacher name or city. Teachers have personal web addresses to take you straight to their projects also. For Damar Elementary, you can find Ms. Reif's page at donorschoose.org/MsReifkinder. You can find Mrs. Dryden's page at donorschoose.org/Erica.Dryden and Mrs. Noller's page at http://donorschoose.org/Noller.

Be sure to check out the site and see how you can easily make wonderful, long lasting contributions to our already amazing schools.

ENCORE

by Richard Robinson

The FHSU Encore series resumed, February 1st, with a presentation of "The Wizard of Oz. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson were accompanied by Cassidy Pywell and Megan Maddox. The evening started with a snack from McDonald's followed by a very nice performance of "The Wizard of Oz,". We all enjoyed the performance and marveled at the special effects. The evening concluded with a late meal at Applebee's.

On Tuesday, February 6th, Arturo Cedillo accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Robinson to the Encore presentation "Dance Theater of Harlem". The presentation consisted of four ballet performances. The dancers were very talented. The evening started with dinner at Applebee's and concluded with some fast food drinks.

The next Encore will be March 9th, with the performance of "All Hands on Deck".

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

What's Happening In . . .

March 2018

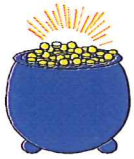
March	1	HS BB Sub-State @ Palco 6:00 PM
	2	HS BB Sub-State @ Palco 6:00 PM
	3	HS BB Sub-State @ Palco 6:00 PM
	4	4-H 7:00 PM
	5	PJH Scholar's Bowl @ Stockton 4:00 PM
	6	JH Instrumental Clinic @ Northern Valley 1:00 PM Concert 6:00 PM
	7	HS BB State TBA
	8	HS BB State TBA
	9	HS BB State TBA
		Teacher's Workday
	10	HS BB State TBA
	12	B.O.E. Meeting @ Palco 7:30 PM
	15	*NO SCHOOL*
		Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:00 to 4:00 5:00 to 8:00 PM
	16	*NO SCHOOL*
	18-22	Senior Trip to Chicago
	19-23	*SPRING BREAK*
	28	HS Speech & Drama @ Northern Valley 9:00 PM
	30	*NO SCHOOL Good Friday*

PLEASE NOTE CALENDAR CHANGES

March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 HS BB Sub-State TBA	2 HS BB Sub-State TBA *End of 3rd Quarter*	3 HS BB Sub-State TBA
4 4-H 7:00 P.M.	5 PJH Scholar's Bowl @ Stockton 4:00 P.M.	6 JH Instrumental Clinic @ N. Valley 1:00 P.M. Concert 6:00 P.M.	7 HS BB State TBA	8 HS BB State TBA	9 *NO SCHOOL* Teacher Workday HS BB State TBA	10 HS BB State TBA
11 *Daylight Saving Time Begins*	12 B.O.E. Mtg. 7:30 P.M.	13	14	15 *NO SCHOOL* *Parent/Teacher Conf.* *1:00 - 4:00 5:00 - 8:00*	16 *NO SCHOOL*	17 *St. Patrick's Day*
18	19	20 *Spring Break ~ No SCHOOL March 19th - 23rd* *Spring Begins*	21	22	23	24
25 *Palm Sunday*	26	27	28 HS Speech & Drama @ N. Valley 9:00 A.M.	29	30 *NO SCHOOL* *Good Friday*	31

March 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	All menus served with milk. *All menus subject to change.* *USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*			1 Bierock Tater Tots Green Beans Fruit Choices Garden Bar	2 Cheese Pizza Bread Stick Garden Salad Fruit Choices Garden Bar	3
4	5 Pig in a Blanket Baked Beans Curly Fries Fruit Choices Garden Bar	6 Chicken Fajita Mexican Rice Black Bean Corn Salsa w/WG Chips Fruit Choices Garden Bar	7 Sloppy Joes Dorito's Fruit Choices Garden Bar	8 Beef Biscuit Roll Mashed Potato Gravy Fruit Choices Garden Bar	9 *NO SCHOOL*	10
11	12 BBQ Beef WW Bun Baked Beans Tater Fruit Choices Garden Bar	13 COOK'S CHOICE	14 Deli Turkey & Cheese Croissant Cottage Cheese Sun Chips Fruit Choices Garden Bar	15 *NO SCHOOL*	16 *NO SCHOOL*	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	SPRING BREAK MARCH 19th thru 23rd					
25	26 Hamburger on WW Bun Lettuce Tomato Fries Fruit Choices Garden Bar Rice Crispy Treat	27 Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potato Gravy Fruit Choices Garden Bar	28 Chili WG Tortilla Chips Fruit Choices Garden Bar Cinnamon Roll	29 Baked Ham Cheesy Potato Green Beans WW Biscuit Fruit Choices Garden Bar	30 *NO SCHOOL* *Good Friday*	31