

USD #377 Weekly Update

For Parents, Patrons and Staff

Steve Wiseman, Superintendent

Monday, September 8, 2008

Good Things are Happening at Atchison County Community Schools!

Ms. Hansen, High School Social Sciences - On Saturday, Sept. 6, nineteen ACCHS students traveled back in time. Well, they actually traveled to Bonner Springs to attend the Renaissance Festival. The Honors World History and Honors Sophomore Language class went on a magical trip to the land of fairies, knights, and kings. This year's festival featured King Henry VIII and his new bride Anne Bolyn. Students enjoyed Gypsy dancers, giant turkey legs, magicians, singers, comedians, and other artists. Some students were inspired by the Joust they witnessed to try their hands at knightly combat themselves. This is the second year that teachers Jennifer Hansen and Karen Benson sponsored the event. Last year was just the World History students, but this year teacher Carol Oliver joined the sponsors to include the English students. "We plan on this being an annual event," said Ms. Hansen.

Noelle Walters, HS Science & Forensics - Members of Mrs. Walters' General Science class at ACCHS recently studied how to design a controlled experiment. Groups of students were given the task to develop an experiment to test how the design or construction of a paper airplane affects its flight. The culmination of the project was spending a class period outside "field testing" the various planes, collecting data and determining whether or not the group's hypothesis was correct.

Marci Feldkamp, High School Secretary - Deb Taliaferro put in a full week at the high school, meaning the middle school handled everything on their own...well, almost a full week – she went to Branson on Friday.

John Wetig, High School PE - Since my tenure here at ACCHS we have recently turned the fastest 40 yd. sprint time in the past three years. Senior, Troy Wehking ran a 4.50 sec. 40 yd. dash during our fall testing this past week. We have also recorded the most times under 5.0 sec. since the fall of 2006, with eleven students obtaining this mark. It is one of our goals in the Strength and Conditioning class at ACCHS to develop quicker, stronger and more agile students.

Joe Worthington, HS/MS Band - We had a trumpet quartet play the Star Spangled banner at the MS football game and then taps for the anniversary of 9-11. Sounded great!

DC Lucas, CP American History - We have organized our inaugural We The People, The Citizen and the Constitution Congressional Hearing team at ACCHS. Sixteen students will begin preparing for state competition in February. Practice hearings will take place at the end of the first semester. We look forward to having a competitive group of young Constitutional scholars.

Becky Campbell, Middle School Mathematics - I had a student take some math home to share with an older sibling. The student was very happy that he could show his older brother (high school) how to perform a particular math concept. He came back to school elated that he had accomplished something. I was proud of him and more important he gained a bit of self confidence in himself.

Nancy Fasse, Second Grade Cummings - The 2nd Grade students at Cummings are writing a "Student Weekly" each week. This newsletter summarizes what the students have studied and learned during the week. They are excited to write a news article and see it published. It is sent home to 2nd grade parents, posted in our building and shared with other second grades in the district.

Pam Liewer, Elementary PE – The elementary schools are nearly finished with fitness testing, grades 1 – 4, except for the Endurance Run, and as I was looking at some of the results the other night, it is definitely looking like there is going to be great improvement in all areas in testing for most of the students. Also, we got to use the Effingham Blue Building for PE in Effingham this week and it is going to work wonderfully.

Mr. Wiseman, Superintendent – I drove to Potter, Huron and Muscotah last week to check out how things were going at the bus pickup points. On Monday I drove through a steady downpour on my way to Potter, but the rain certainly did not dampen the spirits of the pre-school and kindergarten students waiting for the bus. It's obvious they love going to school...if we can keep them *THAT EXCITED* all the way through high school, then we will have truly accomplished something!

On Sunday I attended the Region Two Kansas Teacher of the Year Banquet held in Topeka where elementary physical education teacher, Pam Liewer, was honored along with 37 other region two teachers. Pam was selected by USD 377 elementary teachers to represent our district as a candidate for Teacher of the Year. One elementary and one secondary teacher were selected as finalists for the Kansas Teacher of the Year. Though Pam was not selected as a finalist, we are very proud of her and all that she does for the students of Atchison County Community Schools.

Paula Hall, Kindergarten Cummings - We had our first PLC day. We got a lot accomplished on our Math mapping. We also got the chance to discuss other Kindergarten issues. It was very nice to have a half day to do these things. We didn't feel so rushed to hurry and get back to our classroom like we did last year.

Kristi Wiseman, Technology Director - We were able to do MAP testing on the new laptops at Lancaster and ALL students were present at the time of testing so we have no make-up tests to do!!!!

Wanda Small, Second Grade Effingham Elementary - One of my students found a pupa/chrysalis at recess. It was green with threads of gold in it. We kept him in a box and after a few days the students were able to watch a newly emerged Monarch butterfly dry off and slowly unfold its wings. At first the wings were all bound up and the butterfly was very weak. As the day went on he got stronger and slowly started stretching out his wings. We took him outside and put him on a branch so he would continue to get stronger and fly away. The students then expressed their butterfly metamorphous experience through letter writing. It was great to see their excitement through the whole process.

Notices:

Little Pepsters Cancelled Due to Rain - Little Pepsters were scheduled to perform at Friday night's varsity football game versus Valley Falls, but was being cancelled due to the rain. It has been rescheduled for Friday, October 3, Homecoming. Little Pepsters will perform at half-time of that game.

The September 13 JV VB Tourney @ MH-MA has been rescheduled to October 18 due to gym flooding.

Earn an A? Here's \$50

The Chicago Tribune, Sept. 11

CHICAGO, Ill. -- Up to 5,000 freshmen at 20 Chicago public high schools will get cash for good—and even average—grades as part of a new, Harvard-designed test program that city education leaders are rolling out Thursday. Students will be measured every five weeks in math, English, social sciences, science and physical education. An A nets \$50, a B equals \$35 and a C still brings in \$20. Students will get half the money upfront, with the remainder paid upon graduation. A straight-A student could earn up to \$4,000 by the end of his or her sophomore year.

Parents have been rewarding children for stellar report cards for decades. Chicago Public Schools officials are nodding to that tradition and saying the idea is to get students to stay in school and do well while they're there. "The majority of our students don't come from families with a lot of economic wealth. I'm always trying to level the playing field," said schools chief executive Arne Duncan. "This is the kind of incentive that middle-class families have had for decades."