

# USD #377 Weekly Update

For Parents, Patrons and Staff

Steve Wiseman, Superintendent

Monday, September 22, 2008

---

---

## Good Things are Happening at Atchison County Community Schools!

**Denise Young, Title I Aide Cummings** - The Cummings students have been incredible during their lunch time. With the whole school eating at once they all work hard to make it a positive experience for everyone!

**Alison Ostertag, Elementary Reading Recovery** - Friday night at the High School football game there was a large group of Middle School students who all sat together and cheered the entire game. These students were very well behaved and I was proud to have them representing our district!

**Jennifer Hansen, HS Social Studies** - ACCHS scores well on the State Social Studies Assessment. We have received good news at the high school. The scores on the state social studies assessment were very good. We had a composite score of 57.9, with the meets standard score being a 44. We had 81% of our students score in the meets standard or above. 21% of our students exceeded the standard level. We hope to celebrate with those students soon.

**Nancy Young, Kindergarten Lancaster** - Last week Lancaster celebrated being one hundred fifty years old. Our Lancaster students showed their community spirit and pride by drawing pictures of our town. These were displayed in the city building. A job well done, Lancaster students! Thanks.

**Joyce Thompson, Middle School Science** - The 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes are learning the process of the scientific inquiry and how microscopes have contributed to our knowledge in science. The students are observing and demonstrating the proper handling & parts of the microscope, magnifications of the compound microscope and the proper technique for the focusing of a microscope.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes are learning how you can use the process of scientific inquiry to investigate observations. The students are observing, inferring, measuring, & calculating the proper way to use a triple-beam balance to measure the mass of different objects and chemical substances.

On Thurs., Sept. 25th the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class will travel to the Leopold Conservation Education Area at Lake Perry for a study trip. The Water Festival will be hosted by the students and staff of John Dewey Learning Academy. The day will contain innovative, experiential learning activities designed to educate students about water in our world.

The bus will leave at 8:05 a.m. and return at 3:00 p.m. The students need to dress appropriately for indoor/outdoor activities. Lunches will be provided by the John Dewey Learning Academy, but if your child has special dietary requirements they will need to bring their own sack lunch. All electronic equipment should be left at home.

**Tina Wagner, Cummings Secretary** - At Cummings Elementary I have been sending out daily announcements to parents by email. Mr. Wetig suggested we have all three elementary schools do this. Starting yesterday we included all three schools in one announcement. This includes lunch, breakfast any PTO info and any news that parents should know (like picture day, etc). I have already had feedback from parents that this is a great idea.

**Joe Worthington, MS/HS Band** - High school band has been preparing to perform at the half-time show of KU football game. They performed Saturday evening in Lawrence. Our band plus 45 other bands all performed at half-time.

**Sheila Chalfant, Middle School** - Some of our students recently competed at the Kansas State Fair Horse Show this past weekend. Sara Nutsch placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Poles class, Tara Ellerman placed 7<sup>th</sup> in Reining, Jacob Reiss and Jeremiah Ostertag both completed in the Flag race, Katrina Reiss placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the flag race, Ashley Chalfant placed 7<sup>th</sup> in Reining, and Lauren Fedrick placed 1<sup>st</sup> Reining and 6<sup>th</sup> in Barrels.

**Kathy Enzbrenner, Accounts Payable/Personnel** – All hourly employees including bus drivers submitted their time cards by the required deadline for September payroll – Hoorah!

**Susan Erickson, K-12 Librarian** - All students in Mrs. Young's kindergarten class in Lancaster have successfully returned all library books every week for the past four weeks. What a way to show responsibility!!

**Kristi Wiseman, Technology Director** - We completed the first round of computerized MAP assessment testing for the elementary centers in their buildings instead of bussing the students to the Middle School or High School. Also, with the assistance of Mr. Watkins and the 1<sup>st</sup> period Computer class at the MS we set up 24 PC's in the MS business lab replacing the 24 window 98 systems acting as terminals into the MS terminal server.

**Tracy Pieper, Effingham First Grade** - As a parent of two children in the USD 377 school district, I have always known that there are great teachers doing great things at our schools. Now that I am among these wonderful educators, I see firsthand what I knew before. Our teachers are definitely the good news of not only the week, but the year!!!!

**Mr. Wiseman, Superintendent** – I am very impressed with the work going on during PLC and math textbook selection meetings that have taken place these past two weeks in the Board room. It's awesome to witness how focused and driven our teachers are as they work collaboratively to improve curriculum and instruction.

**Linda Boos, MS Library Aide/STUCO Sponsor** - After finishing their lunch, ACCMS students volunteered to carry supplies to the concession stand at the football field for Thursday's game during their free time before returning to class. Their help was greatly appreciated.

**Noelle Walters, HS Science/Drama/STUCO** - Auditions have started for the HS fall musical, "Guys and Dolls", which will be performed Nov. 14-16.

Nominations have been made for Homecoming Queen & King: Queen candidates are Hanna Gillispie, Gentry Linscott and Liz Thompson, and King candidates are Ashton Denoon, Jesse Hoffman and Troy Wehking; these names will be announced at the end of school today. (9/19)

**Nate Smith, HS Math and Cross Country Coach** - Gentry Linscott has won her first two races ever. Thursday she won the inaugural cross country meet at home. Tuesday she won at Holton. This is a pretty awesome feat. Trevor Lutz, Steven Rathert, Keith Damon, and Hannah Boos have also medaled at various races this year. We have also been taking middle school kids to all the middle school runs. Sarah Wagner and Kelsey Sheeley have consistently medaled as 8<sup>th</sup> graders, as well as Paige Boos and Brandi Crail. Kiley Warriner has done very well as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, winning our inaugural girls run. Ricky Kearney also ran here at home. We are taking middle school runners to Hiawatha, Royal Valley, and Sabetha.

At Hiawatha, four Middle School Runners medaled, Ricky Kearney finished 2<sup>nd</sup> for the boys. Lilly Holtgrave finished 1<sup>st</sup> for the girls, Kiley Warriner finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sarah Wagner finished 4<sup>th</sup>. For the high school, both girls medaled. Hannah Boos finished 24<sup>th</sup> and Gentry Linscott won the race over her rival from Horton. This is Gentry's third straight victory! The boys finished with four medals, their best performance in two year. Tobin Warriner placed 22<sup>nd</sup>, Kinson Billings 18<sup>th</sup>, Steven Rathert finished 14<sup>th</sup> and Trevor Lutz finished 13<sup>th</sup> with a time of 20:20. Trevor became the fourth boy to letter this year. Congratulations ACCHS Cross Country, and good luck next week at Royal Valley

As for math class, today we did a really cool project. I had the kids write out the steps to making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. They had two weeks to finish it - I had 95% participation. Then today, in each class, I had a student read their steps while I made a peanut butter and jelly sandwich according to them. It was very entertaining and the kids had a great time. The first few kids I had read the steps didn't get very far. Some would forget to open the jars, so I was spreading jars on bread. Some would forget to open the bread sack, so I also spread peanut butter and jelly over a whole loaf of bread! It was funny.

Eventually I would have one of the students that did very well read their steps. Then we finally made a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. After this, all the kids got to make a sandwich and we had kool-aid. The reason we did this was as an enrichment exercise to the state indicator:

*Understands the concepts of and develops a formal or informal proof through understanding of the difference between a statement verified by proof (theorem) and a statement supported by examples (2.4.A1a). M.HS. 3.1.A3*

I was hoping after this project that the kids would understand the idea that proofs must be extremely detailed and that no steps can be left out. The assignment due tomorrow is to write a reflection (I included writing!!) over the day's events. They need to include what we did and the answers to two questions, "How could they have improved the steps in their projects, and how did this exercise help them in their understanding of writing proofs?" I am anxious to see the results because I think they really benefitted from this different strategy. Proofs can be very tedious, difficult and frustrating, but now I think I actually have students excited about doing them!

### **John Flores, Athletic Director – Athletic News**

#### Varsity Volleyball Update

*Seneca/Nemaha Valley Tournament* - ACCHS lost to Rock Creek 25-15, 25-16, ACCHS lost to B&B 25-13, 19-25, 15-25, ACCHS beat Horton 25-17, 19-25, 25-1

*Varsity Volleyball at Home Tuesday, September 16* - ACCHS beat Hiawatha, 25-22, 25-14, ACCHS lost to Jeff West 25-22, 25-7

#### JV Football

Monday, September 15 - JV Football ACCHS won 27-8 at Valley Falls

#### Home Cross Country Meet

Girls: Gentry Linscott - 1<sup>st</sup> place medal, Hanna Boos - 23<sup>rd</sup> place medal, Danielle Frederick - 27<sup>th</sup> place

Boys: Steven Rathert 19<sup>th</sup> place medal, Mitchell Kurtz 23<sup>rd</sup> place medal, Keith Damon 27 place, Trevor Lutz 29 place, Kinson Billings 32 place, Tobin Warriner 38 place

JV Boys: Jacob Howard 17 place, Austin Miller 18 place, Josh Keimig 28 place

Cross Country meet @ Holton - Gentry Linscott 1st place medal, Boys: Trevor Lutz 17<sup>th</sup> place medal

**From the Dept. of Curriculum and Instruction** - The USD#377 Elementary Mathematics Resources Committee met on Monday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> to begin the process of selecting PreK-6 mathematics materials for adoption into the district curriculum. Members of the committee are:

Angie Kimmi (Chairperson), Shelia Chalfant, Anita Stutesman, Elaine Stuck, Jennifer Gigstad, Kelli Bottorff, Paula Hall, Rita Eckert, Shelly Maas, Tracy Pieper, Jo Logan

USD #377 Curriculum Director Tom Hinrichs met with all Keystone interrelated staff to discuss district curriculum and resource needs.

The USD#377 administrative team met with the USD#409 administrative team in order to plan follow up activities utilizing the *Results Now* training, which was presented to district teachers in August. A series of building visitations between district principals and USD#409 principals will occur in the near future. The joint administrative team meeting was organized by USD#377 Curriculum Director Tom Hinrichs.

### **Notices:**

**Little Pepsters Rescheduled** - Little Pepsters 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.

"You cannot do all the good the world needs, but the world needs all the good you can do."  
-Anon.