

USD #377 Weekly Update

For Parents, Patrons and Staff

Steve Wiseman, Superintendent

Monday, October 6, 2008

Good Things are Happening at Atchison County Community Schools!

Mrs. Dobbs & Mrs. Royer's class at Cummings - The third and fourth graders started a reading program in September. The students read with their parent/guardian every night for 20-30 minutes. The student keeps track of their time on a monthly calendar. At the end of the month, the calendar is returned with their total minutes read. If they reach the goal of 420-450 minutes a month, they are rewarded with an educational activity. The activity for September was an educational video about the Swamp Tiger from Bangladesh. Parents are in a unique position to help their child enjoy reading and see the value of it. Thank you to all parents for your support.

Noelle Walters, HS Science/STUCO Sponsor - Congratulations to Homecoming King and Queen Ashton Denoon and Elizabeth Thompson, who were crowned prior to Friday night's Homecoming football game.

Mrs. Small, Effingham ES Second Grade - I have selected Sara Guzman, an ESOL student for my "Student of the Week" in 2nd Grade (Effingham) because she is beginning to learn how to write sentences in English! I am so proud of her!

Cherrie Preut, Effingham ES 4th Grade - Rick Eckert named 4th grade Student of the Week for maintaining good attendance and improving handwriting.

Amy Pound, Pre-School - Aaron Ricketts named Pre-school Student of the Week.

Pat Forge, HS Foreign Language - On Friday, the French class had an engaging experience. Fatouma Sow, a KU nursing student from Dakar, Senegal visited with us, compliments of her mentor Kathy Albers. She addressed the students in French, asking them simple questions that they were actually able to answer. She also answered their questions about Senegal. Although it was the last class of Homecoming week, no one wanted it to end! Thanks, Kathy.

Mrs. Erickson, K-12 Librarian - Linda Boos printed and sent home AR point standings for the MS students. Mrs. Erickson honored 20 elementary students who brought in their Public Library Summer Reading Program certificates. Mrs. Erickson and Mrs. Judy Chalfant prepared the first book order of Reading is Fundamental books for distribution the week of October 20. Activities have been planned at each of the elementary centers. This national reading program is funded by the three elementary PTOs.

Mrs. Wiseman, Technology Director - The MS VPL lab is set up with 24 Thin Clients replacing the Windows 98 systems for faster and better connection to the district network. Parent web access to AR is now working for all reports!

Linda Boos, MS Librarian Aide/STUCO Sponsor - The students of ACCMS did a wonderful job this week showing their "Tiger Pride" during Spirit Week. Their creativity was amazing!

Shelly Maas, Pre-kindergarten - The student of the week for Tiger Paws Preschool is Denten Elias. This week in preschool, we learned the letter E and about community helpers. We also enjoyed a visit from the Effingham Public Librarian and we made Egg salad for the letter E. We are having fun learning in preschool!

Paula Hall, Cummings Kindergarten - Cummings Star Students of the Week are: Kindergarten - Meagan Pitts, Grade 1 - Annie Hall, Grade 2 - Ivan Smith, Grade 3 - Cameron Billings, and Grade 4 - Dalton Lust

Jane Halling, Lancaster Secretary - Lancaster Students of the Week are: Kindergarten - Gunnar Koontz, Grade 1 - Carson Galland, Grade 2 - Logan Kramer, Grade 3 - Samantha Hughes, and Grade 4 - Hunter Ostertag.

Tom Hinrichs, Department of Curriculum and Instruction - ACCMS teachers; Charlie Watkins, Debbie Forbes, and Debbie Schneider, along with At-Risk Coach Natalie Leseberg and district curriculum director Tom Hinrichs visited the Auburn-Washburn schools to observe that school's model VPL program.

Elementary teachers, under the direction of math department chairperson Angie Kimmi have completed the Bulls-eye curriculum alignment process. This process is designed to facilitate seamless teaching across grade levels in our math curriculum. Many fine teachers did lots of good work to make this happen.

Formative Assessment (practice tests) are now available to K-12 teachers both in computerized and paper-and-pencil format. These tests use retired state assessment questions to help teachers' measure student growth and guide instruction in reading, writing, math, social studies and science.

Natalie Leseberg, MS At-Risk Coordinator/Seventh Grade Volleyball Coach – The Seventh Grade JV volleyball team took 3rd place at Hiawatha Tournament on 9/27.

Pam Liewer, ES Physical Education - After finishing my Project Fit America and regular Fitness testing, every one of my elementary students has qualified for one or more Project Fit America Station Stars awards. That is 100% success!

Mr. Wiseman, Superintendent – Congratulations to the high school varsity football team and coaches who performed admirably against the heavily favored Holton Wildcats Friday night. Kudos to Mrs. Walters and all the students and staff who worked so hard to make Fall Homecoming 2008 a resounding success.

I want to thank all the staff who have taken time to email me your good news items. It's great to be able to share with our community all the great things that are happening.

Notices:

Health News from Mrs. Albers, School Nurse – I have finished vision screening on all students K-4 in the district. We are now completing review of immunizations and physicals required for school entry. We will be scheduling vision screening in October for all new students, 5th, 7th, and students with IEP's.

PowerSchool will be down October 22nd, 23rd & 24th. We will be migrating PowerSchool data to an on-site server on the above mentioned dates. There will be no access to the program by Staff - Teachers - Parents or Students during the migration.

Accelerated Reading Reports - There are components of the Accelerated Reader program Parent Access is now running correctly.

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

Dear MGP Employees:

Due to the strike you may fill out an Application for Child Nutrition Program Benefits using the current income of all household members. All family members' income must be put on the application. For the striking employees please put a check in the box that says check if zero income and check the box in the final column and please circle strike in the heading of that column. As soon as the application is received in the school I will approve it according to the family income. You will be approved on a temporary basis for 60 days. At the end of the 60 days I will call to see if the income has changed and if it has you will be approved for the new income. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 913-833-5050 from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. If you are not able to call during these hours please call and leave a voicemail and I will get back with you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Theresa Cattrell
USD 377 Food Service Director