

USD #377 Weekly Update

For Parents, Patrons and Staff

Steve Wiseman, Superintendent

Monday, November 10, 2008

Good Things are Happening at Atchison County Community Schools!

Susan Erickson, K-12 Librarian – All district elementary students traveled to ACCHS gym last Wednesday morning for a presentation by Safari Bob. Safari Bob used magic, reading, science experiments, student participation, puppets and magic in a presentation on Going Wild with Reading and animals found in your local communities. The students were very animated and excited by the presentation. We thank the three elementary PTO's for funding this wonderful assembly.

Kudos to Mark Zeltner, Young Adult Library Board President, for giving up his morning HS schedule to aide Safari Bob in unloading, setting up, finding seating for the elementary faculty, and running many errands for the assembly. Safari Bob commented that he had never had a helper before and that it was most greatly appreciated!

Jennifer Hansen, HS Government/Social Sciences -
Jane Halling, Secretary Lancaster – Lancaster Students of the Week: Kindergarten - Ashley Snider, 1st Grade - Sarah Kimmi, 2nd Grade - Makaea Forbes, 3rd Grade - Cody Giles, 4th Grade - Cody Armstrong

Tina Wagner, Secretary Cummings - Cummings Star Students of the Week: Kindergarten – Jacob Lee, Grade 1 – Hailey Lewis, Grade 2 – Bryce Fowler, Grade 3 – Lanai Meyer, and Grade 4 – Dylan Birkinsha

Deb Falk, Secretary Effingham ES – Effingham Elementary Students of the Week: ECH – Tristen Doty, Kindergarten -Will Bindel, 1st Grade - Cassie Watkins, 2nd Grade - Cory Peck, 3rd Grade - Edward Webster, 4thGrade - Jacob Peck

Mr. Wiseman, Superintendent – The November regular monthly meeting of the USD 377 Board of Education will be tonight, 7:30 p.m. at the Central Office.

Kudos to Mr. Preut, Mrs. Feldkamp, Ms. Dolven and all the other high school staff, as well as students who helped with the Veterans Day Program held on Friday. I received many words of thanks and gratitude from attending veterans and family members.

Thank you Mr. Worthington and Mrs. Eckert for your fine work and preparation of our instrumental and vocal students. The HS band and Soundmasters were exceptional in their performances on Friday.

My compliments go out to Paul Lundgren who so beautifully played Taps at Friday's program in honor of our deceased heroes.

KSHSAA High School Fall Athletic Buffer Week November 10th – 17th

There shall be no athletic practice, off-season conditioning, informal basketball shooting, working out on wrestling mats, etc., in school-owned facilities during the Fall Athletic Buffer Week. Athletic activities of this nature may not be held under the supervision of a school staff member in non-school facilities. This means a moratorium on all school-sponsored athletic activities during this week.

Gymnasiums shall not be open to the students during the Fall Athletic Buffer Week for the purpose of shooting baskets, working out with weights, etc., outside of school hours. Noon hour and physical education classes are considered part of the school day. The Fall Athletic Buffer Week does not eliminate football practice for those senior high schools who qualify for football play-offs until such time their football season is over. The same applies to the gymnastics program.

Mr. Wetig, Elementary Principal - It was a **“Good Friday”** last week where at Cummings **ALL** students were in attendance. The last time we had all students in the building was 9/25/08.

Notices:

Promethean Demo Scheduled for Thursday, November 13th, 3:30 PM in the USD #377 Board Room – A teacher representative from each building is asked to attend this demonstration.

The Atchison County Drama Club of ACCHS, Effingham, Kansas, under license from Music Theatre International, will present **“Guys and Dolls,”** a musical fable of Broadway, November 14-16, 2008. Set in New York City, this romantic comedy introduces the audience to a cast of vivid characters: Sarah Brown (*Kristen Hotham/Sloane Elias*), the upright but uptight "mission doll," out to reform the evildoers of Times Square; Sky Masterson (*Derek Wallisch*), the slick, high-rolling gambler who woos her on a bet and ends up falling in love; Adelaide (*Allegra Gigstad*), the chronically ill nightclub performer whose condition is brought on by the fact she's been engaged to the same man for 14 years; and Nathan Detroit (*Jesse Hoffman*), her devoted fiancé, desperate as always to find a spot for his infamous floating crap game. This classic musical is based on a story and characters by Damon Runyan, with music and lyrics by Frank Loesser and book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows.

Featured characters include Nicely Nicely Johnson (*Steven Rathert*), Benny Southstreet (*Trevor Oswald*), Ardeth Abernathy (*Elizabeth Ford*), Gen. Cartwright (*Jodi Swendson*), Big Jule (*A.J. Armstrong*), Harry the Horse (*Austin Eckert*), Rusty Charlie (*Justin Harmon*) and Lt. Brannigan (*Trevor Lutz*). Other cast members include: Brooke Allen, Cruz Bautista, Hannah Boos, Erik Cummings, Tara Ellerman, Sarah Felton, Wesley Frederick, Austin Gibson, Allison Handke, Brooke Hurst, Khrystyan Jamvold-Banks, Mitchel Kurtz, Kaylee Lawrence, Alex Maxwell, Lisa Mead, Morgan Miller, Katrina Reiss, Jaclyn Scherer, Jordan Scherer, Mary Schletzbaum, Kayla Schneider, Nick Spilman, Alex Thompson, Emily Warriner, and Jeanette Williamson. Richard Fox makes a special guest appearance.

Noelle Walters is the director and Amy Eckert is the music director for this production. Emily Warriner is the choreographer for the Hot Box Girls and Cuban dancers.

The musical will be performed in the ACCHS auditorium November 14 at 1:15 p.m., November 15 at 7:00 p.m. & November 16, at 2:00 p.m. Adult tickets are \$4, senior citizen and student tickets are \$2 and children under 5 years old are free with a paid admission. Audience members bringing a canned good or non-perishable food item will receive \$1 off the admission price. The food collected **will be contributed to the ACCHS Friends of Rachel “Can the Principal” food drive**, which runs Nov. 10-21, 2008.

For more information on either the musical or the food drive, contact Noelle Walters at waltersn@usd377.org or (913)833-2240.

Superintendent's Notes

The following is from Thursday's Greenbush North Study Group led by Kansas Commissioner of Education, Alexa Posny:

- Recommending the state assessments not change for at least four years, even though the standards must be rewritten
- Discussed state budget concerns
- P20 Council – Biggest issue related to early childhood is the concept of schools interfering with the parents rights/responsibilities of children 0-3
- **Almost 40% of the state's children live in poverty**
- **New graduation laws will not give us credit for students on IEP's who stay in HS more than four years.**
- 8th grade Algebra is a key indicator/predictor of future success. Schools should be striving to have a minimum of 40-50% of 8th graders in Algebra.
- AP courses are the key indicators of college success for HS students.
- Teachers who are mentored stay in the profession much longer.
- Every student in HS – starting in 9th grade – should have a career plan in place
- 20% of all students will be successful in college; 20% will enter the work force; 60% will eventually enter fields requiring technical training. What are you preparing your students for?

Board Agenda for tonight 7:30 PM, Central Office, Effingham –

1) OLD BUSINESS

- a. BUILDING ASSESSMENT PROPOSAL (D)
- b. LONG RANGE PLANNING DISCUSSION (D)
- c. APPROVE REDEFINING EXCELLENCE IN GOAL NUMBER ONE OF THE DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN (A)

2) NEW BUSINESS

- a. APPROVE THE CALL FOR BUS BIDS (A)
- b. DISCUSS APPROVAL OF REWARD FOR STUDENTS ACHIEVING STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE (D)
- c. DISCUSS FIRST READING OF KASB SAMPLE EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN POLICY (D)
- d. BOARD SELF-EVALUATION DISCUSSION
- e. EXECUTIVE SESSION PERSONNEL