



THE ELL-SALINE ECHO

April 2008

Check us out at www.ellsaline.org

NEED HELP WITH HOMEWORK?

With the second semester of the school year in full swing, and state assessments here, students, teachers, parents, grandparents and guardians should take advantage of **Homework Kansas**.

Introduced to Kansas just over a year ago, this **FREE** service offers 4th through 12th grade students interactive guidance in math, science, social studies and English from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. seven days a week. Math and science assistance in Spanish is available from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday.

Homework Kansas automatically connects participants with a tutor who could be any one of 1,300 teachers, graduate students and other professionals scattered across North America. All tutors are subjected to background and reference checks.

To access **Homework Kansas**, students simply need to go to www.homeworkkansas.org and enter their Kansas Library card number from their local public library. The service can be accessed from any internet connected computer. If the student does not already have a Kansas library card, they can acquire one for the State Library of Kansas immediately on this same site.

For further information, please contact Jackie Lakin at the Kansas State Department of Education via email at jlakin@ksde.org or by phone at (785) 296-2144.

SEARCHING FOR POTENTIAL 2008-2009 KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

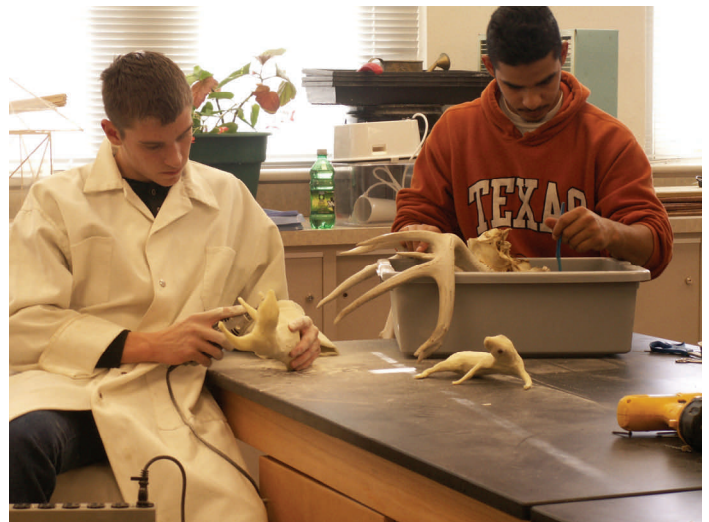
Ell-Saline Elementary School is making plans for the kindergarten class of the 2008-2009 school year. Names and contact information of the children who will be attending are needed. Kansas State Law requires that children be five (5) years old on or before August 31 of the year they enter kindergarten.

Parents and the children who will be attending kindergarten next year will be invited to attend Kindergarten Roundup to be held on April 16, 2008, at Ell-Saline Elementary School.

If you know of anyone who qualifies, PLEASE contact the elementary school (785-827-8891). Your help and

cooperation in making us aware of potential kindergarten students for next year is appreciated.

CARDINAL FOUNDATION GRANTS AT WORK



Michael Haverfield and Rodolfo Arias (above) and Kailey Smith and Eric Nelson (below) are pictured working with some of the taxidermy unit materials that Mr. Weis was able to purchase for his classroom through a Cardinal Foundation Grant. Through this unit the students learn many new and different skills without the use of textbooks, notes or tests and they are able to develop actual job skills as well as integrating academic skills into the lessons.



BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

March 10 Board Meeting Report

All board members were present. Action taken was on a 7-0 vote unless noted otherwise.

Mr. Dodd took the board's picture for the yearbook prior to the meeting.

7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

AUDIENCE WITH THE BOARD

None

REPORTS

BOE – None

Mrs. Sprinkle – Her report included: distributing the school newsletter; the positive publicity the school has recently received in the Salina Journal (4th grade classes preparing lunch—KWCH had also called about doing a piece on this; Vivian Kochanowski); leadership opportunities given to students by helping Steve Stegman with raising the flag and taking out trash plus an upper grade student helping out in Mrs. Fouard's 1st grade class; Hoops for Heart and Jump Rope for Heart activities taking place on March 13, a group of MS/HS students will help with this; the State Assessment Kick-Off Pep Rally; and Kindergarten Roundup will take place on April 16 and so far there are 29 names on the pre-enrollment list, Mrs. Nelson's Child Development class will help with this.

Mr. Alexander – His report included: State Assessments will begin on March 11; Parent-Teacher Conferences went well and overall good attendance; the MS students did well at the HOA Music Contest; reported the numbers out for each spring sport; a 1-act play will be performed on May 1; students will be helping with the elementary school Jump Rope for Heart, Hoops for Heart and Kindergarten Round-up activities; the staff has shared positive comments following the Ruby Payne training; Joe Coles from Southwest Plains Regional Service Center worked with the students on the topic of bullying and from that a group of students has formed a leadership team to address the issues of behavior and language here at school; expressed appreciation for the effort of Booster Club in providing the carnival and for the various activities they have done all year in support of our students and staff; and the sub-state basketball tournament that we hosted.

Mr. Minneman – His report included: an update on the Eat Smart, Get Moving! program; progress being made in preparation of installing the wind turbine; the state auditor will be here the week of March 24; and shared a list of meetings out-of-the-district he will be attending before the next meeting.

BUSINESS

Site-Council/Facilities Meeting — Comments were shared by Cheryl Higgins, Delbert Armbrust and Jerry

Minneman on perspectives given by the committee at the March 4 meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, at the elementary school.

Senior Trip Air Travel — It was approved for the seniors to fly to Florida for the senior trip.

Staff Out-of-State Travel — It was approved for Dana Sprinkle to attend a Ruby Payne Training of Trainers workshop in Santa Fe, New Mexico, this summer.

Principals' Contracts—Dana Sprinkle's and Paul Alexander's contracts were both extended for one year. Dana's through the 2009-2010 school year and Paul's through the 2008-2009 school year.

Supplemental Positions — Amber Fouard was approved as the Play Director for this spring's play and Dale Dodd was approved as an Asst. HS Track Coach.

There were three Executive Sessions (Personnel-2 & Land Acquisition). No action was taken following any of them.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, April 14, 7:00 p.m. in the District Office. The board will tour the MS/HS building at 5:30 prior to the meeting.

MONTHLY PARENT LEARNING TIPS #7 BUILD A LIBRARY AT HOME

One of the best ways to help create a more school-like family is to build a library of books and magazines at home. This month we'll give you some ideas for good, but inexpensive ways to help your at-home library grow faster.

- Schools often hold book fairs. These book fairs are a great, inexpensive way to add books to your library at home. The books are not only reasonably priced, but are age appropriate for your child. The teacher will be able to help you make your selections.
- There are many other places to buy inexpensive books for your child. Second hand and antique stores usually have an excellent selection of children's books for sale. Garage sales are also good places to look for children's books.
- Ask your local health or legal professionals for their outdated magazines.
- Gift certificates for books and other reading material are a wonderful way to build your library at home. Encourage those that purchase gifts for your family to either buy books or give gift certificates to local bookstores. When it's your turn to buy gifts, think about giving reading material to others.
- One way to get new reading material is to trade books with friends, neighbors, or relatives.
- Don't forget the local library. Visit the library often with your child to exchange books, to attend book talks or other library events, or just to curl up and read. Make sure your child is allowed to help choose the books.
- Most importantly, make sure your home library gets used. Set aside story times and quiet times to read aloud. Make sure your child sees you reading, too.

*Submitted by Susan Stateham
Taken from RMC Research Corporation*

CPTA MINUTES
for Monday, February 18, 2008

Attendance:

Nikki Davenport	Anita Bird	Susie Omli
Michelle Griffin	Ben O'Shea	Desiree O'Shea
Angela Hopkins	Mindy Schneider	Dana Sprinkle
Amber Fouard	Courtney Clifford	Holly McKain
Mendee Kramer	Darci Ditto	Wendy DeArvil
Casey Cox	Michelle Schrock	Angela Allen

Minutes were read and approved.

Treasurers Report:

Bank of Tescott: \$ 22, 338.12
Library Fund: \$3,882.31

*Anita Bird announced that she would be resigning her position as treasurer, effective immediately. Susie Omli moved to accept Anita's resignation. Mindy Schneider seconded the motion and the motion carried. Ben O'Shea moved to accept Angela Hopkins as the new Treasurer until the end of the school year. Darci Ditto seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mrs. Sprinkle's Notes:

*Cheer/dance camp only had two games to choose from, apologized that this fell on skate night.
*Offered feedback to LifeTouch. Requested they not offer too many options for poses.
*Conferences are Feb. 20/21
*No school Feb. 20, 21 and 25
*Spirit week Feb. 25-29 for 3-6 grades. Younger classes will adopt a class that will be taking the state assessments and will be making posters, bookmarks, etc.
*March 6-end of 9 weeks
*March 7-No school, teacher workday
*March 17-21- Spring break
*Requested additional money for snacks for state assessments. Angela Allen moved that CPTA give an additional \$150.00 for snacks. Mendee Kramer seconded the motion, motion carried.

Old Business:

Outdoor learning area:

Mindy Schneider advised she and Mrs. Sprinkle are continuing to look at shade areas for the outdoor learning area.

Sidewalk plans:

Wendy DeArvil advised that Mrs. Russell has given her the book with the stencils for the US and world maps. Recommends we use asphalt paint. She will be checking with Grace E. Stewart who has a map on their playground to find out how often they paint, how much it costs, etc. Mindy Schneider made a motion for Wendy to purchase the US map stencil. Holly McKain seconded the motion and the motion carried.

School Pictures:

Courtney Clifford moved that ESE stay with LifeTouch photography. Angela Allen seconded the motion and the motion carried. Ben O'Shea moved to reduce kick backs that the school receives, in an effort to reduce portrait package costs for parents. Casey Cox seconded the motion and the motion carried. Courtney will contact LifeTouch.

Yearbooks:

136 yearbooks have been ordered. Susie Omli made a motion that we order 176 yearbooks @ \$10.09 to include all 136 yearbooks that have been ordered by students, as well as giving a yearbook to all teachers. Angela Allen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Courtney advised that LifeTouch also offers at no charge, autograph inserts for the yearbooks. She will order them and give them to the teachers, should they choose to do autographs in their classrooms. Each child would get one regardless of whether they ordered a yearbook or not.

Teacher surveys:

Discussion ensued on honoring the requests for classroom items. Courtney moved that CPTA give \$50.00 teacher scholarships to each certified teacher in addition to teacher appreciation week. Susie seconded the motion and the motion carried. Teacher scholarships will be given by 3-1-08.

New Business:

Amber Fouard proposed that ESE looks into having a "Mighty Minnie Cardinal" as the elementary school mascot. Could promote a positive attitude, kids would have their "own" mascot, new image for the school, etc. This item will be tabled until the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next CPTA meeting, Monday, March 31, 2008 at 6:30

Submitted by Secretary, Nikki Davenport

AFTER PROM NOTES

The After Prom meeting was held March 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Those in attendance were: Scott & Shondra Abker, Lisa Armstrong, Darrell Betzner, Michele Britt, Kirk & Connie Cates, Scott & Julie Rohrig, Margaret Shaver, and Ron Schmutz.

It was reported that 36 large gifts have been bought or donated and the bank balance is currently at \$6498.30. It was also reported that Schlotzsky's will donate chips and Pepsi -Cola Bottling will donate the pre-mix machine for pop. It was decided that pizza will be ordered from Domino's. Scott Rohrig will be in charge of getting this ordered. The t-shirt design and colors were also chosen. Lisa Armstrong will be making this order. A schedule of events was created & volunteers were assigned work stations. We are still in need of snack foods (cookies, peanuts, pretzels, chex-mix, etc.) and would like parents that have yet to help this year donate these items. Parents

will meet at 11:30 p.m. on April 19 at the bowling alley to get set up for the event.

The final meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria on April 16. Any parent with a child attending After Prom is encouraged to attend this meeting!

Submitted by Julie Rohrig

GIRL SCOUTS VISIT SALT MINE

Our Ell-Saline Girl Scout Troop #957 went on a field trip Friday, February 22nd to Hutchinson, Kansas. We enjoyed a tour of the Salt Mine as well as an afternoon at Splashtown. Fun was had by all!

A special thank you to all that purchased Girl Scout cookies from our Troop. We appreciate you!

Submitted by Kimberly Mick



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

As I sit here following Spring Break it looks like March is going to go out like a lamb rather than a lion. After the long winter we've had it will be good to have warmer weather before long. Combining that with the moisture we've had the past few months everything should be "greening up" and "coming to life" soon.

Spring time in school can be one of the most rewarding times of the school year. This year is already proving to be no different. Now is when the culmination of one year's, or several years', worth of effort and accomplishment is recognized. Our middle school recently competed in the league music festival where their hard work this year was rewarded by receiving many ratings of "I" and "II". All of the music students performed very well in front of our parents and patrons at the MS/HS Concert where they played many of the contest numbers. The National Honor Society held their banquet on March 12 with the induction of new members and the recognition of the current senior members. As the seniors look

forward to next year and pursuing their goals, various scholarships have been announced, with more to come that will help them in their endeavors. Although it is stressful for students and staff, now is also the time when our students take the Kansas State Assessment tests that give us information on progress they have made over the year and helps us make decisions for the future. The MS Scholar's Bowl team will soon be finishing a successful season. The HS Art and Industrial Arts students will have the opportunity before long to display their projects at various shows and competitions.

Spring time in schools can be one of the most frustrating times of the school year. What I am referring to is in planning for future years and knowing that the amount of resources will at least keep up with the rate of inflation. As I stated in the February *ECHO* schools will receive an additional \$59 on the Base State Aid Per Pupil (BSAPP) for next year which amounts to roughly a 1.4% increase. This while the rate of inflation for 2008 and 2009 is projected to be at least 2.3%. There is a bill in the legislature that would increase the BSAPP for the following year by another \$59 which would be even less than the 1.4% for next year. As funding falls farther behind the rate of inflation and a larger percentage of our budget is needed for non-instructional items (fuel, utilities, insurance, etc.) all of the programs or strategies that we have put in place in recent years and are needed for our students to meet the NCLB mandates become in jeopardy. Of additional concern to me is the potential for lack of future funding increases. This is because several business and organization tax exemptions are likely to be passed this year that will greatly reduce the tax revenues to the state. Again, for the future of our district, and others across the state, I encourage you to contact your legislators and express your concern about reducing state revenues. It continues to be important for our voices to be heard.

Another exciting thing that is going on now is in joint meetings of both the Elementary and the Middle/High School Site-Councils along with a group of parents/patrons where we are discussing potential future facility and/or program needs of the district. So far the committee has met once at each building. At those meetings elementary principal Dana Sprinkle and MS/HS principal Paul Alexander led a tour of their respective buildings and that was followed by a discussion of what was seen. At the present time there is another meeting of the committee scheduled for April 9. Look for more details to be coming in future *ECHO* editions.

Thank you for your continued trust and confidence in the Ell-Saline USD 307 school district. You can be assured that your children are receiving a quality education. Please take advantage of every opportunity to observe our students in upcoming activities.

Counselor's Corner

March 2008
Juniors.....

Juniors should consider taking the ACT on the April or June testing dates.

ACT

Test Date	Registration	Late Registration
April 12		March 21
June 14	May 9	May 23

Students may register for the ACT online at www.act.org or pick up a paper/ pencil packet in the counseling office.

Test date reminder

The next available national ACT test date is April 12, 2008. The regular registration deadline is March 7 and the late registration deadline is March 21. The test is offered again on June 14 and will be the last national test date offered until fall. Online registration and test date information are available at www.actstudent.org. If you choose to register online, register early to avoid heavy Web traffic and delays. ACT offers an optional Writing Test in addition to the multiple-choice achievement test. Go to www.actstudent.org/writing to find out about the Writing Test, including what the colleges you're interested in have decided about requiring it. While you're at the website, don't forget to take advantage of test prep aids, including free sample test questions, at www.actstudent.org/testprep.

Preparing for the ACT, a booklet with a complete practice test, scoring key, writing prompt and sample essays, is available to download on the Test Prep section of actstudent.org. Your ACT registration packet, available from the counseling office, also includes the booklet. Try taking the sample test and timing yourself to prepare for test day.

For all your questions about the ACT test, visit www.actstudent.org.

Strengthen your academic skills

If you think your skills aren't quite up to speed for college, don't give up. Take time to prepare yourself. There are many ways to get a college degree. You just have to take the path that's right for you.

ACT offers these tips:

- Use test score information to see where you need work. Score information from the ACT®, for example, can tell you what subjects you need help with and what you can do to raise your skills to the next level. Remember, a low score doesn't necessarily mean you're bad in a subject. It just means you haven't learned the subject yet.
- Work with a tutor to learn what you don't know yet.
- Take a summer or night school class.
- Check out study aids—books, videotapes, audiotapes and computer programs—at your school library, a public library or a local bookstore.
- Ask your counselor or a teacher about ways you can build your academic skills.

Seniors.....

Seniors should be applying for admission to the colleges of their choice and locating scholarships.

Seniors need to tell Mrs. Rickman about the college that they want to attend for the final transcript.

Time to make your college choice

Very soon seniors will have to make an important decision—which college to attend.

In April, many colleges and universities begin sending offer letters to students who have been accepted for their incoming freshman class and have applied for financial assistance. Offer letters list the cost of tuition and fees plus the amount of financial aid available through the school.

When you've been accepted and receive financial aid offers from more than one school, you need to compare the offers, make a choice and accept the offer that best fits your needs—and your budget. How do you compare offers? Make a list of pros and cons of each school and the key reasons for your decisions. Most families need to consider the annual net cost of attending each school and the annual cash outlay required of the family. To figure these out, you can make a chart listing each school and include the following:

(A) Estimated Annual Expenses

- Tuition
- Fees
- Room
- Board/meal plan
- Travel
- Estimated price of books and supplies
- Personal expenses

(B) Total Gift Aid (aid that does not need to be repaid)

- Grants and scholarships
- Other gift aid

(C) Net Price = A – B

(D) Work Study / Job Offers

(E) Loans to Be Repaid

- Federal Stafford or Direct Loans
- Federal Perkins Loan
- Other student loans

(F) Cash Outflow = (C – [D + E])

Once you've completed the chart, consider the pros and cons of each school along with the financial considerations. Consider the nontangible factors (your feelings about the school and the environment) as well as the tangible factors (cost, course offerings). Listen to your parents but realize that the decision is ultimately yours.

Know your financial aid offers

When you receive offers from colleges, be aware of the terms of any financial aid offers. In the case of federal, state and many institutional aid programs, you are required to reapply each year. Nearly every scholarship also carries with it an obligation to carry a minimum course load and to maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA). It's important to read all financial aid documents carefully and understand their terms and conditions. The same goes for loans. You need to consider the terms of any loan—both the interest rate and when repayment is to begin. Make sure you understand everything before you sign any documents. If you have questions, ask a financial aid officer at the college for help.

Student athletes –time to register with NCAA

If you are a senior who is planning to participate in Division I or II sports as a college freshman, fall is the time to register to be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. You must do this in order to qualify for college athletics. You can register beginning in October. The NCAA also has new eligibility rules relating to the required high school core courses for student-athletes. You can register and check out the rules at the student information page at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/NCAA/student/index_student.html. You also can read "The Guide for College-Bound Student-Athletes" at the website, or you can order a paper copy of the guide by calling 1-800-638-3731. The guide provides a summary of the rules and regulations in an easy-to-read form. Guidelines relate to recruiting, eligibility, financial aid and college freshman eligibility requirements for Divisions I and II.

Plan ahead, if you plan to transfer

For many students, attending a community college and transferring to a four-year university makes a lot of sense. It can be a good move academically and financially if you develop a personal plan of action and take the steps to make it succeed.

If you plan to transfer, don't procrastinate. Counselors at both community colleges and four-year colleges say it's crucial that you start preparing early if you plan to continue education at a four-year college or university after community college.

Before you get too far into your community college coursework, you'll need to make some decisions about the path you're planning to take.

What is your probable major?

Deciding on a major early can help you determine the exact courses you will need to take and—as counselors often point out—make your transition smoother. It will also help you choose the four-year college you want to attend. Check the course offerings available in your intended major at the colleges you're interested in. If you don't know what you want to major in, the best bet would be to take a core curriculum that is easily transferred and save your major course requirements for the four-year institution.

Which four-year college are you planning to attend?

Choosing the four-year college you'll transfer to will help you make decisions about which courses to take, as well as allow you to prepare to meet that college's admissions requirements.

Will the courses you're taking in community college transfer to the four-year college you've chosen?

You can begin your transition by talking with your advisor at the community college and the transfer advisor at the four-year college. The schools may have an "articulation agreement," which spells out the courses at the community college that will transfer and apply to majors at the four-year college.

How to apply for financial aid

If you're planning to attend college next fall, January is the time to file your Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. Information from the FAFSA is used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid programs—grants, loans and work-study.

You can get the FAFSA:

- online at www.fafsa.ed.gov
- from your school counselor
- from a college financial aid office
- from a local public library
- from the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)

Make sure you check financial aid deadlines! The FAFSA will list deadlines for federal and state aid. Also check the requirements at the colleges you're interested in applying to. Some require additional financial aid forms.

Calling All Students,

Are you interested in volunteering? If you are, the applications to Salina's Volunteer Connection are in the counseling dept.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check for changes at www.ellsaline.org.

- | | | | |
|---------|---|---------|---|
| Apr. 1 | 3:30 MS HOA Quiz Bowl @ Bennington | Apr. 21 | NO SCHOOL—Teacher In-Service |
| Apr. 1 | 4:00 SB @ Trinity Catholic | Apr. 21 | 4:00 HS JV Track @ Tescott |
| Apr. 2 | 9:00 HOA HS Art @ Goessel | Apr. 22 | 9:30 MS Track (So. Cloud) @ Beloit |
| Apr. 2 | FFA @ Beloit | Apr. 22 | 4:00 BSB/SB @ Canton/Galva |
| Apr. 3 | 4:30 BSB/SB Lincoln @ Ell-Saline | Apr. 23 | 6:30 FFA Banquet @ ESHS |
| Apr. 4 | 3:30 HS Track @ SES | Apr. 23 | TBA Careers 2008 @ Salina |
| Apr. 7 | TBA District FFA Banquet | Apr. 23 | Administrative Professionals Day |
| Apr. 7 | 3:00 BSB Bennington @ Ell-Saline | Apr. 24 | 3:00 MS Track Canton/Galva @ Moundridge |
| Apr. 7 | 4:00 SB Bennington @ Ell-Saline | Apr. 25 | 10:00 HS Track Relays @ Beloit |
| Apr. 8 | 6:00 ESIC Meeting at ESEL | Apr. 25 | 4:00 BSB/SB @ Inman |
| Apr. 10 | 3:00 MS Track @ Ell-Saline | Apr. 26 | HS Music State |
| Apr. 10 | 4:30 BSB @ Sylvan Grove | Apr. 28 | 7:00 4-6th Gr. Spring Fling @ ESHS |
| Apr. 10 | 4:30 SB Sylvan Grove @ Ell-Saline | Apr. 29 | 9:30 MS Track (St. John's) @ Beloit |
| Apr. 11 | 3:00 HS Track @ Bennington | Apr. 29 | 3:00 HS Track @ Tescott |
| Apr. 12 | ACT Test Date | Apr. 29 | 4:00 BSB @ Moundridge |
| Apr. 12 | 9:00-3:00 CPTA Track @ ESHS | Apr. 29 | 4:00 SB Moundridge @ Ell-Saline |
| Apr. 12 | TBA HS Music Regional @ Tabor College | Apr. 30 | 7:00 MS/HS Spring Concert |
| Apr. 14 | FFA Floriculture @ SES | | |
| Apr. 14 | 4:30 BSB/SB Chase Co. @ Ell-Saline | | |
| Apr. 14 | 6:30 CPTA Meeting @ ESEL | | |
| Apr. 14 | BOE Meeting @ ESDO | | |
| Apr. 15 | 3:00 HS Track (Wilson) @ Russell | | |
| Apr. 16 | TBA Art @ Hays | | |
| Apr. 16 | 9:00-10:00/1:00-2:00 Kindergarten Roundup | | |
| Apr. 16 | 6:30 After Prom Meeting @ ESHS | | |
| Apr. 17 | 3:00 MS Track @ Remington | | |
| Apr. 18 | 3:00 HS Track @ Osborne | | |
| Apr. 19 | Junior/Senior Prom | | |

EII-Saline Middle/High School Volunteer Opportunities

Our middle/high school activities provide patrons and friends a chance to volunteer for various positions at our activities. Such positions are ticket takers, timers, clock operators, scorers and any other positions that come available depending on the event. As positions become filled you may be asked to fill another position. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Chris Carazo at the district office (225-6813).

EII-Saline USD 307
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An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency

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