

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By the time you are reading this we will have already turned the calendar page to December. That means that winter is quickly approaching and with that comes the possibility of snow, ice, and general bad weather conditions. If those conditions happen on a scheduled school day then a decision needs to be made regarding whether or not to have school. Ideally, the decision can be made the night before so that parents have more time to make arrangements for their child(ren) for the day. However, the weather does not always give us that much advance warning and a decision isn't made until early in the morning. A decision will always try to be made by 6:00 a.m. but conditions can worsen at any time. To help in making what appears to be the best decision we check the radar, weather predictions, current road conditions and what our neighboring school districts are planning. Safety of students, staff and parents is the primary consideration in making a decision. If travel conditions are not good at the time of our normal school beginning or if there is a strong likelihood that the weather will deteriorate during the day so that it will not be safe to get everybody home, then school will likely be called off for the day. It is much more difficult to dismiss school earlier than normal than it is to call off for the entire day. If the weather prediction is for bad weather or if it is "not looking good out there" tune to radio stations KSAL (1150 AM), KSAJ (98.5 FM), KZBZ (104.9 FM), KY94 (93.7 FM), KINA (910 AM), KSKG (99.9 FM), KILS (92.7 FM), KQNS (95.5 FM) and TV stations KSNW (Channel 3), KAKE (Channel 10) and KWCH (Channel 12). Each of those stations will be contacted as soon as any decision is made to modify the normal school day because of weather conditions. If the decision is made for an early dismissal after school has already started for the day, we will also have the notice on our district web site (www.ellsaline.org). We will also be notifying parents through the *School Messenger* system. Good communication at those times is critical!

This month our students gained confidence, and showcased their talents, in several forms of communication. Six of our top instrumental students (Sr. - Jesse Freeman; Jrs. - Michelle Kejr and Tamra Nelson; and So. - Marie VonLintel), accompanied by Ms. Joan Grover participated in the HOA League Honors Instrumental Concert at Little River. Our grades K-3, under the direction of Ms. Amy Brandt presented a great fall concert to a packed house. Our drama students, with Mrs. Marsha Smith directing, put on a fantastic performance of *Just Another High School Play*. The MS basketball teams and cheerleaders under coaches Ms. Erin Marshall, Mr. Dale Dodd, Mr. Jeremy Miller, Mr. Brad Carlson and Mrs. Amber Fouard have started their seasons on positive notes. Our Grades 5-12 Instrumental and Grades 7-12 Vocal students, under the direction of Ms. Joan Grover, put on an outstanding show last week. Several of Mr. Lee Weis' FFA teams placed very high in the various contests they competed in. Mr. Joe Roche and our HS Scholar's Bowl team have begun their season. Our HS basketball teams and cheerleaders under the direction of their coaches Mr. Curtis Pickering, Mr. Nick Taylor, Mr. Doug Wilson, Mr. John Johnson and Mrs. Dawn Cox will begin their seasons this Friday, December 4. Grades 7 through 12 completed a 3-day Thematic Unit based on Language Arts, Math and Writing which culminated in a presentation. Each of these is an example of various communication tools that our students are being exposed to that will help them be better prepared for school and work when they leave us.

Another communication that we received last week from the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) was the impact on each of the school districts that will result from Governor Parkinson's announced budget cuts to balance the budget. Hardest hit were education and highways but they were not the only services that were impacted. As he made his announcement he acknowledged that the cuts were having a negative impact on state services. Part of his comments were:

Excerpt from Governor Parkinson's allotment address

"Unfortunately, we are now to the point of potentially making crippling cuts to state services. This latest round of budget reductions will mean that class sizes will again increase in Kansas schools. Some districts will be forced to lay off teachers and close schools. These cuts mean that our universities will have fewer professors, offer fewer classes and critical investments in our future are in jeopardy. These budget cuts will force us to reduce supervision of released prisoners, increase the number of disabled citizens waiting for services and reduce road maintenance across the state.

*It is my obligation as a leader to balance the budget. But it is also my duty to protect our most precious resources. So I have once again balanced the budget. I promised that I would and I have kept that promise. **But***

we cannot make it through this recession by cutting ourselves into an incurable position. When the Legislature returns in January, together we must look towards building a solution for the years ahead or we will permanently damage the foundation of our state.

For schools the Base State Aid Per Pupil (BSAPP) was reduced from \$4,218 to \$4,012 or a reduction of \$206. **For us this means a reduction in our General Fund budget of \$161,298.** It is anticipated that this will not be the only reduction for the year. If state revenues continue to fall behind projections, we will see another reduction in the spring. In order to absorb this and anticipated further reductions, we will have to make more adjustments in what we have been able to do for our students. At the present time, an official list of budget cuts has not been put together nor has anything been approved by the BOE.

Look in next month's ECHO for a more detailed article on the current shape of state funding.

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. Regardless of how disheartening any funding information from the state is, you can be assured that our staff continues to do the best possible for our students with the resources that we have. The next time you see any of our staff members, I encourage you to thank them for all that they do in the education of our students.

THE DON'TS TO BECOME A "READING SUPER PARENT"

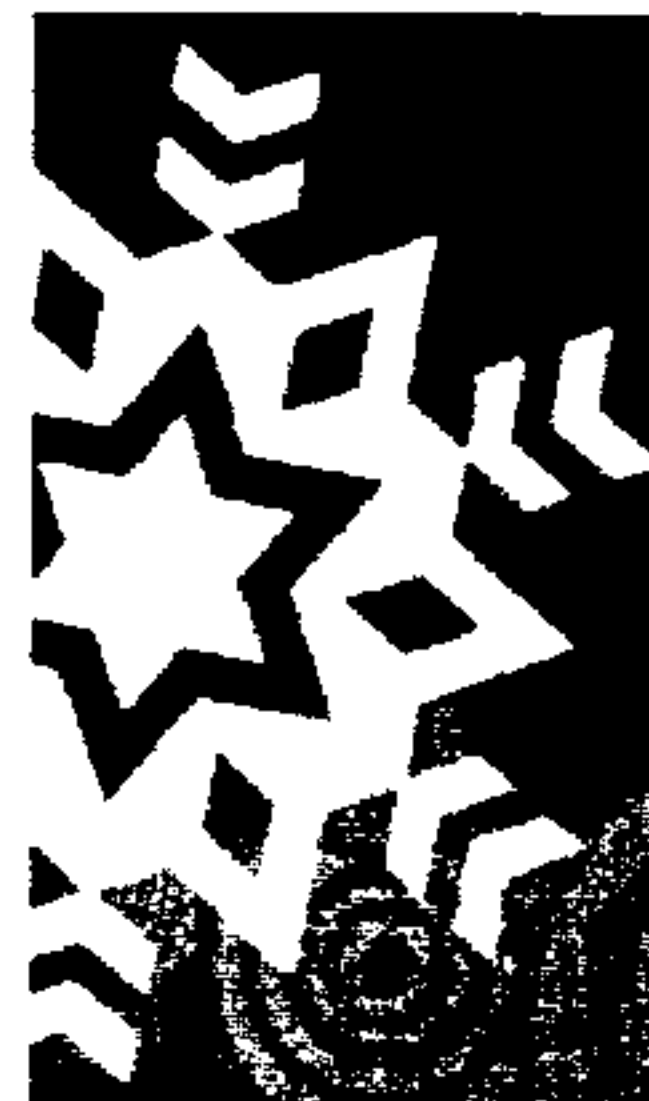
--submitted by Mrs. Susan Stateham, Title I Teacher

Much of your child's success in school depends on what you as a parent and the teacher expects of him/her. The teacher has always been identified as a significant influence for your child in learning situations, but your child's basic attitudes, interests, and values are being developed long before he/she enters school. Your home is the ultimate classroom where your child can learn the most basic human attitudes and skills. You are what your child needs to survive and grow.

There are many things in reading you should do with and for your child, but there are also some basic "don'ts" that also need to be followed to enable you to become a "Reading Super Parent":

- ★ Don't think that books with limited vocabularies for beginning readers have to be dull and quickly outgrown—the whole family can enjoy them.
- ★ Don't interrupt your child while reading if he/she misses a word, but tell him/her the word if he/she asks.
- ★ Don't be too alarmed if your youngster reads nothing but comic books, or horse stories, or adventure series for a while.
- ★ Don't force any book on your child. Sometimes a child reads lots of books beneath his/her grade level, to master the mechanics of reading and to build up speed. In time your child will move on to more challenging books.
- ★ Don't schedule too many activities for your child. Allow enough time for reading for him/her.
- ★ Don't try to solve your child's reading problems by yourself. Your child's teacher can be a great help.
- ★ Don't nag or scold your child if he/she has reading difficulties.
- ★ Don't compare your child with other children that you may feel are better readers.
- ★ Don't discuss a child's reading difficulties with others (except school personnel or reading specialists) as this will only upset your child and add to the problem.
- ★ Don't make your child feel like a failure. A child with reading problems needs love and understanding, and guidance from reading specialists.

December 2009



Monday **Tuesday** **Wednesday** **Thursday** **Friday**

Chicken Nuggets Oven Fries Broccoli and Cheese Crisp Apple Slices Bread Sticks Milk	Grilled Chicken On a Bun Pickle Slices Oven Fries Crisp Apple Slices Milk	Nacho's Lettuce, Tomato Salsa Apple Sauce Bread Sticks Strawberry Milk	Pork Chop Patty Mashed Potatoes Cream Gravy Sweet Peas Pineapple & Bananas Dinner Roll & Jelly Milk	Italian Pasta Bake Tossed Salad Garlic Bread Diced Peaches Choc. Chip Cookie Milk
Chicken Nuggets Oven Fries Broccoli and Cheese Crisp Apple Slices Bread Sticks Milk	Country Beef Pattie Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Green Beans Mixed Fruit Dinner Roll & Jelly Milk	Home-Made Pizza Tossed Salad Pineapple Chunks Pudding Strawberry Milk	Chili & Chips Pickle Spear Baby Carrots Apple Sauce Cinnamon Roll Milk	Chicken Wrap Lettuce & Tomato Spanish Rice Whole Grain Corn Fresh Grapes Milk
No School Teacher Work Day	Chicken Fajita Lettuce, Tomato Salsa Whole Grain Corn Orange Smiles Bread Sticks Milk	Hamburger on Bun Pickle Slices Sun Chips Baby Carrots Crisp Apple Slices Ice Cream Treat Strawberry Milk	Tony's Pizza Cottage Cheese Tossed Salad Lite Ranch dressing Pineapple Chunks Milk	Christmas Dinner Sliced Ham Scalloped Potatoes Green beans Ruby Apple Sauce Hot Roll & Jelly S. Cookie, Milk

No School Teacher Work Day *	No School Winter Break *	No School Winter Break	No School Winter Break	No School Elementary- Breakfast \$18.20 B/\$4.20 Lunch \$30.10 L/\$5.60 MS/HS Breakfast \$18.20 Lunch \$33.20
Jingle Bells	Jingle Bells	Jingle *	All the Way *	*Ding, Ding!
No School Winter Break	No School Winter Break	No School Winter Break	No School Winter Break	Merry Christmas! No School
No School Winter Break	No School Winter Break	No School Winter Break	No School Winter Break	No School
Oh What Fun! *	It is to Ride *	In a one * Horse	*Open Sleigh!	Skating rinks in Moscow, Russia cover more than 2500 square meters of land.

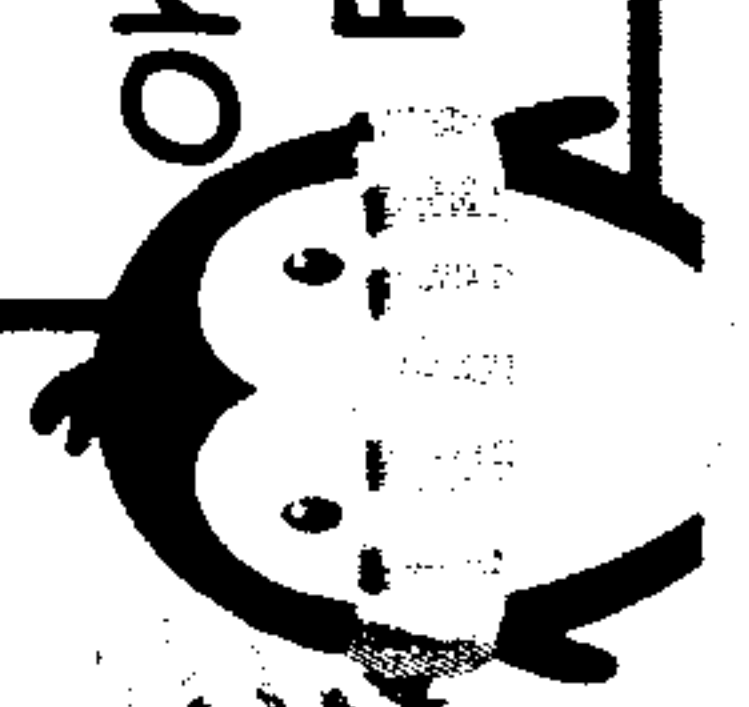
Holiday Idea*

Don't let the rush of holiday activity replace physical activity and good nutrition. Try these simple ideas!

- *Get kids to help plan and prepare holiday meals. Tell them about family traditions & recipes.
- *Put an extra spring in your step as you dash through the mall-power walk!
- *Balance extra holiday calories with regular exercise. Take a family walk, especially after your holiday dinner & dessert.
- *Fill Holiday Stocking with jump ropes, balls & fun gym socks to encourage physical activity.

School News

14 School Days in Dec.
Elementary- Reduced
Breakfast \$18.20 B/\$4.20
Lunch \$30.10 L/\$5.60
MS/HS
Breakfast \$18.20
Lunch \$33.20



Need time away from the kids to do some Christmas Shopping?

The Cardinal 4H Club is offering....

Christmas Child Care Services



Saturday, December 5th

1:00pm-5:00pm

At Ell-Saline Elementary
1757 N. Halstead Rd., Salina
Ages 2-12

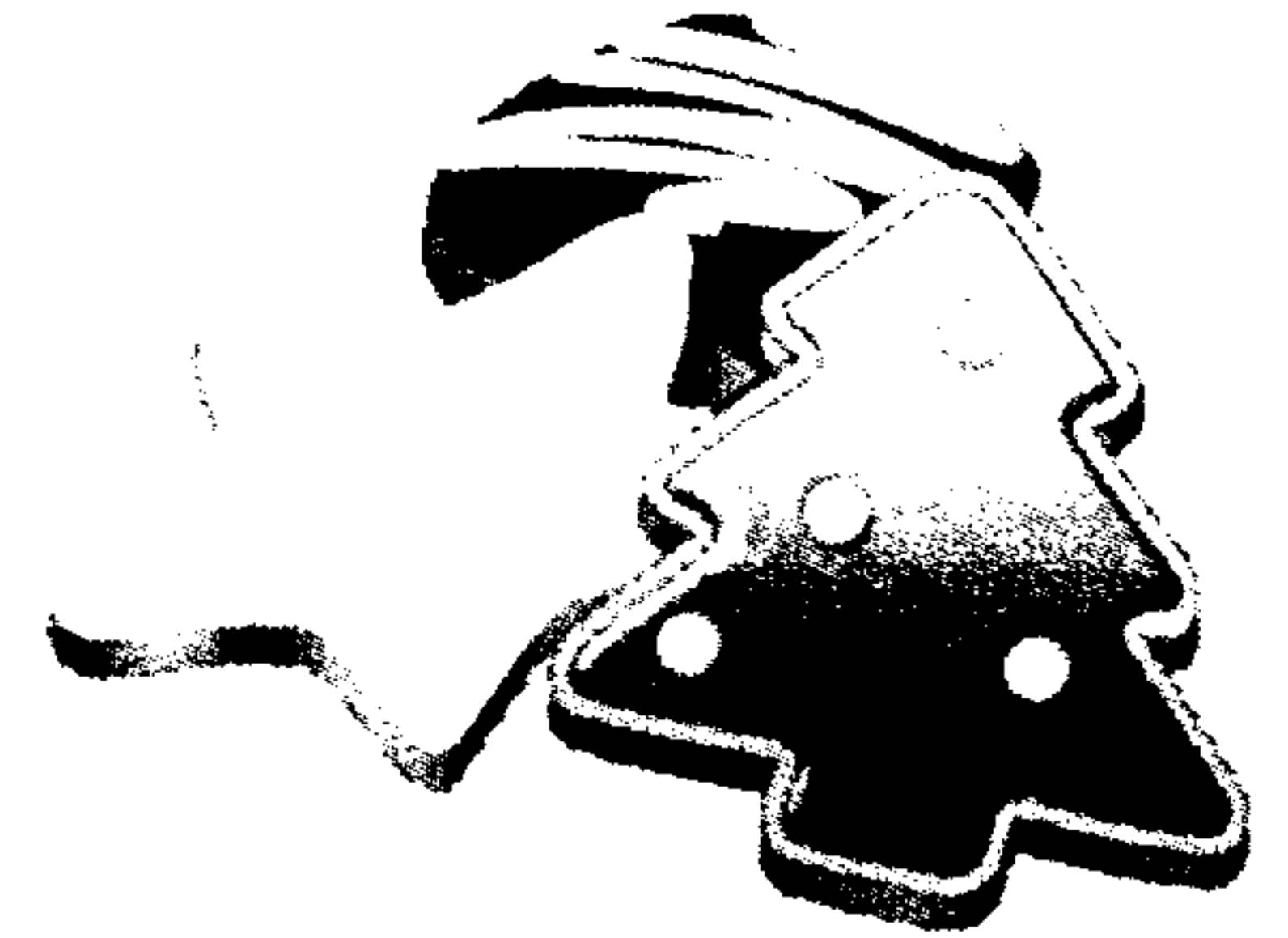
Cost: By Donation

RSVP by December 3rd

Some of the activities will be:

- Crafts, one to take home and one to donate to a nursing home
 - Cookie decorating, then eat for a snack
 - Making and wrapping a "surprise" gift to take home
 - Lessons on how to care for different animals

Plus, lots of time to play games, watch a movie, and more.



Cardinal 4H Club members and parents are looking forward to helping you out, and can't wait to practice some of our leadership skills.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact one of the following people.

Michelle Hynes 785-283-4249 or tmhynes@twinvalley.net

Amber Fouard 785-820-0172 or afouard@ellsaline.org

We are limiting to 50 children, so sign-up early!



***'Tis the Season for Giving ...
Through the Cardinal Foundation for
Educational Excellence***

Need some help with a holiday gift for your classroom teacher or other special Ell-Saline staff member? Relax, we can help! No searching for a parking place, waiting in line, looking for sizes or checking your list. **We make shopping easy.**

Give the gift that keeps on giving. Make a contribution to the Cardinal Foundation in honor of teachers, principals, secretaries, bus drivers, cooks, custodians or other staff at Ell-Saline. We'll give that person a personalized holiday card announcing your gift made in their name. Here's how it works:

You:

- Make a contribution of \$5-\$10 (per card) or more to the Foundation
- Give us the name of the person you wish to honor

The Foundation:

- Creates and gives the card
- Provides you with a tax receipt for your charitable gift

No wrapping, no returning.
This gift fits everyone, every time.

Questions? Contact Michelle Griffin at
mgriffin@ksbroadband.net or 825-1088.



***'Tis the Season for Giving ...
Through the Cardinal Foundation for
Educational Excellence***

Please give a personalized holiday card to the following:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of \$ _____
(There is a minimum contribution of \$5-10 per card sent.)
(Make checks payable to Cardinal Foundation)

Please send the tax receipt to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Return to classroom teacher or school office.
Donations may be matched by CPTA.

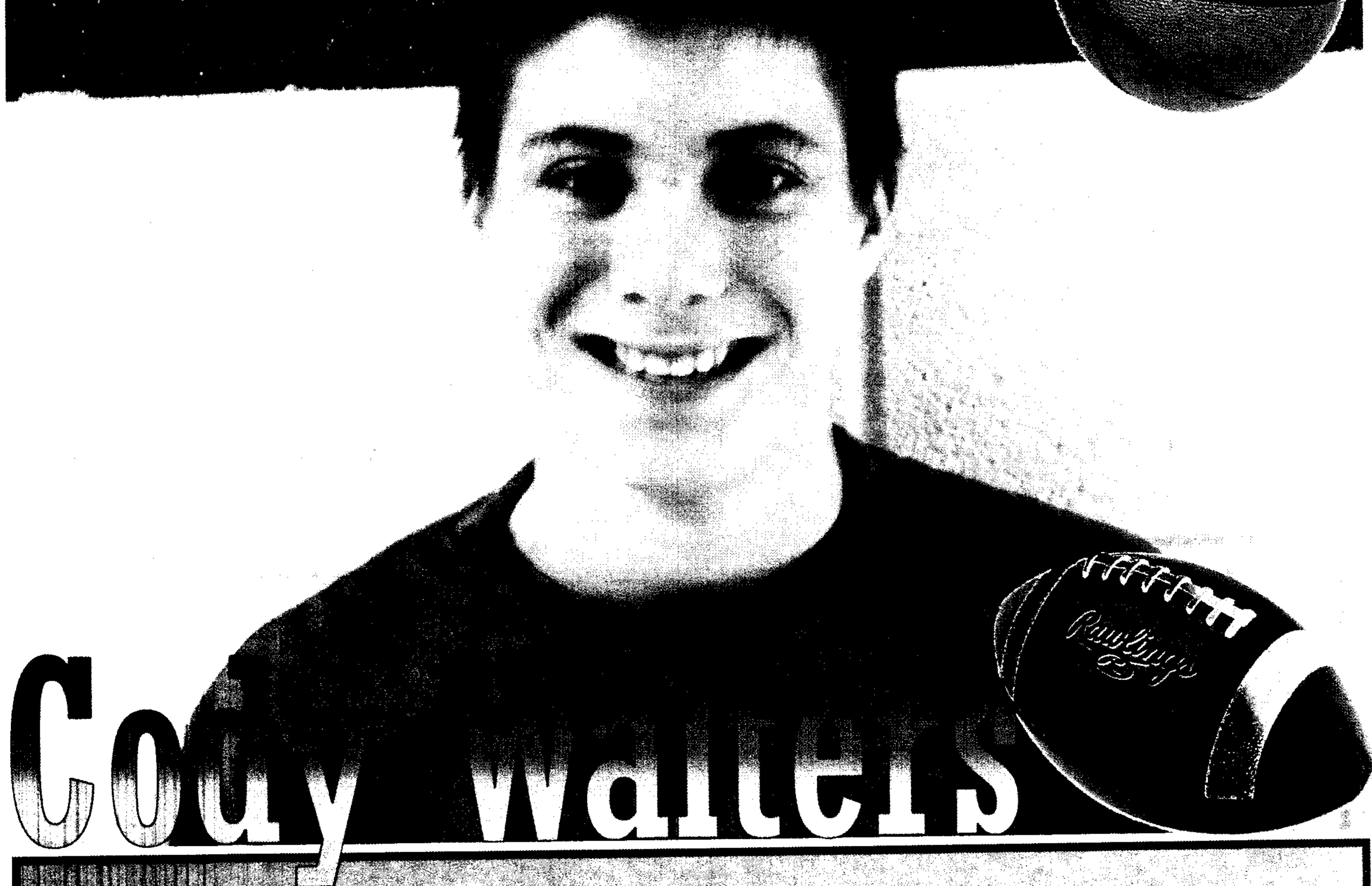
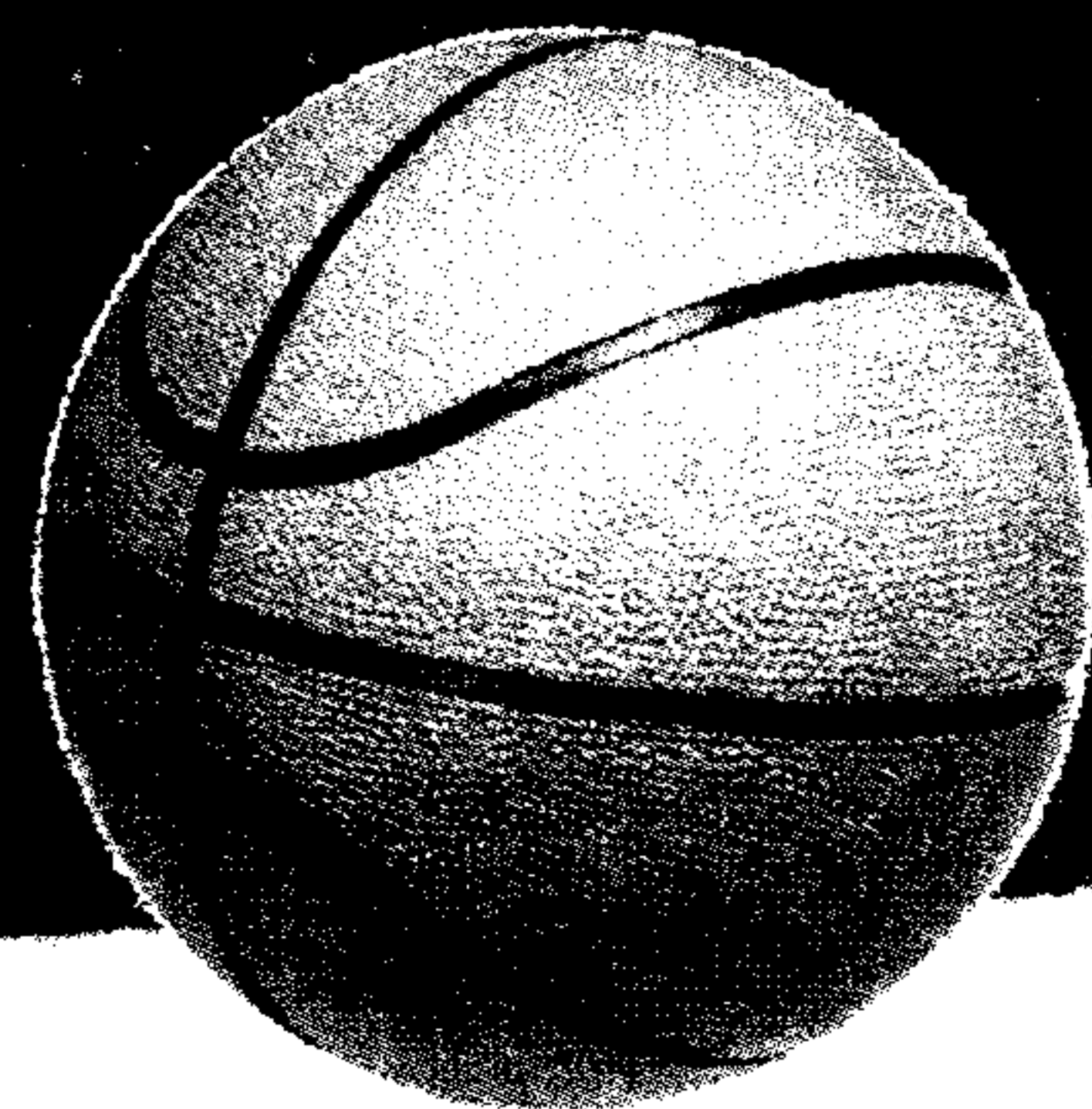
November Student of the Month



Karlie Koelling

The Ell-Saline high school student of the month is senior, Karlie Koelling. She is the only child of Kim and Eddie Koelling. Karlie is involved in volleyball, softball, cheer, and dance. She has also been the drama president for two years, drama vice president and secretary for 1 year, and a Stuco rep for four years. She has participated in FFA for three years and also has a place on the technology committee. Karlie is currently serving as the Stuco president and the FFA secretary. Outside of school, Karlie is a member of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce leadership group. Her hobbies include making crafts like pop tab belts. In the future, Karlie hopes to attend a two-year community college where she can play softball and go on to major in business management.

November Student of the Month



Cody Walters

The Ell-Saline middle school student of the month is 7th grader Cody Walters. Cody's parents are Paula and Chuck Walters and his siblings are Jen and Jason Walters. Cody participates in football, basketball, Circle of Friends, and the PALS program. Outside of school he plays his guitar and attends church. Cody takes an active role in helping the community by mowing lawns. One of Cody's favorite hobbies is collecting baseball and football cards. His future plans are to attend college and major in architecture.

25 yrs of educating families

December 2009



SMOKY HILL EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER

Ell-Saline Parents as Teachers

Parent Educator: Aimee McDaniel 785-825-9185

Begin at the Beginning

A parent is a child's first teacher. The home is a child's first school house. The way a child grows and learns during the early years of life-beginning at birth-can have an enormous impact on his or her later development and success in school.

The goal of the Parents as Teachers program is to assist parents in teaching their children during those most important first years of life; to help parents understand more about how children grow and learn. By working together, we can help make sure that children

in our community will be ready and able to learn successfully.



Parents as Teachers Outcomes

- PAT parents are more involved in their children's schooling.
- PAT parents are more knowledgeable about child-rearing practices and child development.

- PAT parents engage in more language- and literacy-promoting behaviors with their children.
- PAT children score higher on kindergarten readiness tests and on standardized measures of reading, math and language in first through fourth grades.

CONCLUSION

Parents as Teachers has a long history of evaluation research that reflects positive outcomes for families and young children.

NOW ENROLLING

What is Parents as Teachers (PAT)?

- PAT is a FREE program for soon-to-be parents and parents with children up to three years of age.
- PAT offers ideas on learning, behavior, and making a strong bond with your child.
- PAT helps parents know how the brain grows and develops in early years and suggests ways parents can make the most of the first years of life.
- PAT increases your confidence in parenting.

Contact Aimee McDaniel at 785-825-9185 to enroll and learn more about this amazing program.

DECEMBER

COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

Holiday Fun

Friday, December 11, 2009

Salina Central Mall

10:00 am

(morning only)

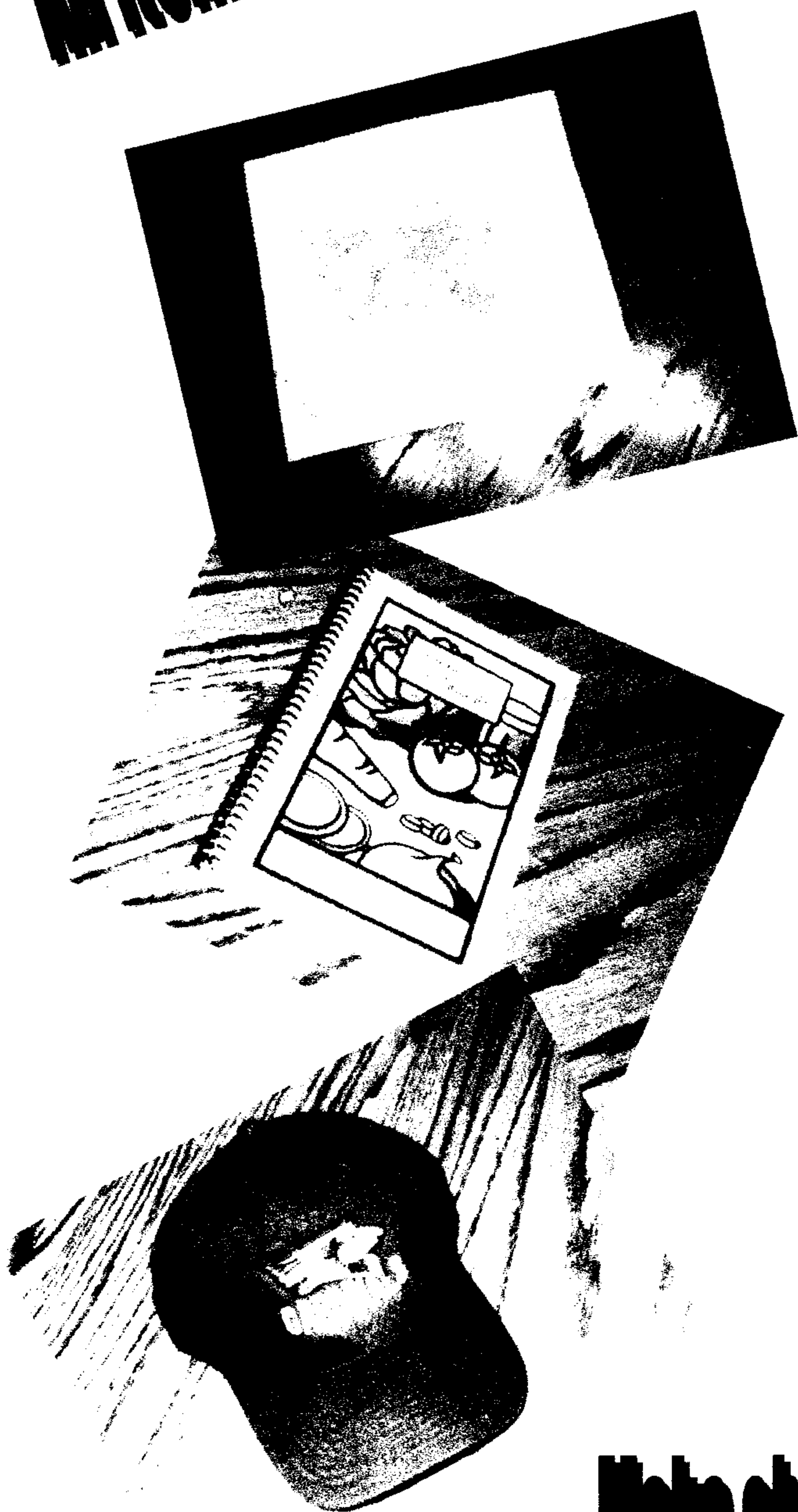


Join us at the mall for pictures with Santa, a train ride and special snack!

**Need Christmas gifts for Grandparents, Parents,
Friends, Teachers, or your Kids?**

All Items For \$10 or Less!!

**EH-Saline Booster Club
can help you
with your shopping!**



Order Now!

**Make checks payable to:
EH-Saline Booster Club**

Orders may be sent to school office.

Qty.	Item	Price
	Cookbook	\$10.00
	Baseball Cap	\$10.00
	Window Decal	\$7.00
	License Plate	\$10.00
	Insulated Mug	\$10.00
	Spirit Card	\$10.00