



THE ELL-SALINE ECHO

April 2009

Check us out at www.ellsaline.org

EXERCISE OUR CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

Next Tuesday, April 7, there will be an opportunity for us to exercise one of our greatest civic responsibilities. That is the opportunity to get out and make an informed vote. Casting our ballot for the political candidates of our choice, as well as for special questions placed before us, is one of the basic responsibilities we have as citizens. Next Tuesday you will have the opportunity to vote on USD 307 school board candidates as well as on the USD 307 special bond questions.

Over the last several weeks, through the efforts of the KIDS (Keep Improving District Schools) Committee there have been numerous opportunities to be informed about the facilities challenges and proposed solutions of your school district. Informational meetings have been held, articles have been printed in the *Salina Journal* and the *Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter*, brochures have been mailed and radio announcements and talk shows have been aired all in an effort to provide information to help you make an informed decision. It is the committee's hope that you have been able to participate in some of these and have gathered the information that you need to make your decision. If there are still questions that haven't been answered or if additional information is needed, please contact Jerry Minneman, superintendent, at 785-225-6813.

If we don't research the issues and then express our opinion at the polls then we haven't fulfilled our civic responsibility. I encourage all of us to be informed about the USD 307 board of education candidates and the USD 307 special bond questions and then go to the polls on April 7 and cast our ballot.

KINDERGARTEN 2009-2010

USD 307 is making plans for the 2009-2010 kindergarten class. We are needing the names of children who will be attending. To be eligible to enter kindergarten this fall, Kansas State Law requires that children be five (5) years old on or before August 31, 2009. If you know of anyone who qualifies, PLEASE contact the Ell-Saline Elementary School office (785-827-8891). Kindergarten Roundup will be held on April 22 at the elementary school for children who will be entering kindergarten and their parents.

SCHOOLMESSENGER

This past week our automated phone calling service, SchoolMessenger, was activated. SchoolMessenger is a program that will allow us to place one phone call that will

then go out to all parents and staff, or any selected group of parents or staff, simultaneously. This will allow us to communicate necessary information more quickly and efficiently. Some of the ways we intend to use it are: school cancellations/early dismissals; reminders of special events; student absences; cancellation of activities (eg. baseball/softball games and track meets); and the return time from away activities.

On Thursday two test calls were placed to parents and then Friday morning a call was placed informing parents about school cancellation. We know that on Thursday there were some problems with the message being delivered to everyone. We're hopeful those problems have been corrected. To help us in our effort to provide this communication, if you have changed your telephone number and haven't yet notified the school please do so soon. That way we can update our system so that you will receive any future calls.

CPTA 5TH ANNUAL YOUTH TRACK MEET

The 5th Annual CPTA Youth Track Meet will be held on Saturday, April 25, at the MS/HS track in Brookville. Registration begins at 8:00. Registration forms and additional information are available at www.ellsaline.org. Questions can be e-mailed to cpta@ellsaline.org or called to 826-5945. Volunteers are needed.

BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

March 9 Board Meeting Report

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

7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

AUDIENCE WITH THE BOARD
None

REPORTS

BOE – None

Mrs. Sprinkle – Her report included: state assessments have started and the elementary school theme this year is "Mission Possible"; there are two service projects taking place "Pennies for Patients" and Jump Rope for Heart/Hoops for Heart with Joyce Songer and Krista Russell respectively heading these up; MS/HS PALS students will be helping with the Jump Rope for Heart/Hoops for Heart activities; 20

ELL-SALINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL MINUTES

March 3, 2009

families attended the Parent Night for Bullying presentation; the February in-service day presentation was on 6-Trait Writing and during the March 10 In-Service day the staff will be utilizing this as they will be scoring the state writing assessments using these traits; and the rest of the day will be spent in planning/collaboration time.

Mr. Alexander – His report included: many activities taking place with spring sports just beginning and play practice underway; four students have received a Dane Hanson Scholarship; MS/HS PALS students will be helping with the elementary school Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart activities; state assessments have begun; the upgrade on internet bandwidth has been a positive; six families attended the Bullying Prevention meeting for parents; the trees on the property to the west of the school will soon be cut down; HOA league school make up (Goessel, Peabody-Burns and Little River have indicated they are likely leaving and Marion and Solomon have been extended an invitation to join), these changes will take place in 2010-2011; we host the MS HOA Music Contest; Site-Council discussions; the tornado siren in Brookville has been fixed; and read a thank you from Tate Omli for providing him the opportunity to wrestle this winter.

Mr. Minneman – His report included: the State Auditor is scheduled to be here the week of March 23; KASB Spring Regional for our region is April 30 in Salina; ball field improvements; wind turbine repairs; school funding; and shared a list of meetings out-of-the-district he will be attending before the next meeting.

BUSINESS

Parents As Teachers (PAT) Program—Marti Ash gave an update on numbers of families and activities that the PAT program is serving. She also shared information about a \$10,000 grant that she has received to serve younger children. The grant requires a 10% match from the school district.

Supplemental Positions—Michelle Werner was approved as a MS Ass't Track Coach and Terry King was approved as a HS Ass't. Track Coach.

Accept Resignation—Paul Alexander's resignation as MS/HS Principal was accepted effective at the end of this contract year.

Principal's Contract—Dana Sprinkle's contract was extended for another year which goes through the 2010-2011 school year.

Facilities — Information from last Wednesday's KIDS Executive Committee meeting was shared. Currently there are three additional Community Informational meetings being scheduled. The tentative dates are Saturday, March 28, Sunday, March 29, and Saturday, April 4. The locations are yet to be determined.

There were two Executive Sessions (Personnel & Student Matter). No action was taken following either of them.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, April 20, 7:00 p.m. in the District Office. **This is one week later than the normal 2nd Monday of the month meeting date because of Easter Vacation.** If anyone wishes to have an item added to the agenda, please contact President Marty Kramer, Vice-President Geena Kejr or the District Office two weeks prior to the meeting.

Members present: Melissa Heinrich, Amber Fouard, Susan Stateham, Robbyn Anglin, Robyn Parker, Barbara Kern, Stephanie Svaty, Janae Basinger

Members not present: Krista Farrell, Dana Sprinkle, Kim Parks

Chairperson, Amber Fouard called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

A discussion was held about parties in regards to time. Parents present mentioned they liked the morning time. Dana is gathering input from the teachers. It was emphasized that healthy snacks should be encouraged with the possibility of suggestions offered at CPTA meetings.

A discussion was held about the Bullying Prevention Program and the discipline rubric.

Meetings for next year are 9/1, 11/3, 1/5, 3/2, 5/4.

We need to recruit 2 parents and 2 teachers for membership next year as several members will rotate off the committee. It was suggested that potential members be invited to the April meeting.

The Staff Development Plan for math was reviewed and graphs of MAP results were given out, along with writing composite scores.

The next meeting of the School Improvement Council will be April 7, 2009, at 6pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

Submitted by Susan Stateham, Secretary

AFTER PROM NOTES

The next After Prom meeting will be March 23rd at 6:30 pm in the High School cafeteria. A second mailing was sent out in February to businesses. The account balance is around \$4,700. Gift ideas and t-shirt designs were discussed. Those present at the February meeting were Lisa Armstrong, Susan Reiff, Jeannie Beaugh, Kristie Rietcheck and Paul Schneider. Prom and After Prom are April 18th.

Submitted by Margaret Shaver

CONGRATULATIONS READERS!

The following students of Ell-Saline Elementary obtained their 3rd quarter reading goal, while maintaining appropriate comprehension:

1st Grade:

Connor Anglin, Macala Base, Alison Bird, Angel Cardona, Wyatt Cell, Ty Chalmers, Karah Dougherty, Seth Flesher, Brandon Gould, Kaden Griffin, Wyatt Hayes, Kayleigh Hobby, Coleson Hopkins, Noah Hopkins, Sydney Hynes, Alexandria Jackson, Sawyer Kramer, Erin Lange, Taylor Lewis, Katrina Nelson, Cale Northcutt, Mia O'Shea, Luke Parks, Trenton Parks, Kathleen Rhodes, Eric Rincon, Caden White

2nd Grade:

Elijah Basvic, Blake Bell, Anthony Brown, Joel Came, Patrick Giersch, Addison Harvey, Chase Parks, Connor Schmeck, Rylee Schrock, Grace Stoppel, Dylan White, Jeb Allen, Michael Burke, Christian Carrazco, Nickolas Davenport, Ian Hays, Cade Heinrich, Mason Henderson, Kennedy Mick, Seth Schneider, Jaya Simmons, Clayton White, Zaine White

3rd Grade:

Branson Basinger, Grace Bowers, Joshua Brandt, Spencer Came, Shyanne Dreyer, Desiree Garman, Lexi Kochanowski, Alyssa Mangels, Jonah Mattson, Cheyenne Monasmith, Malik Myers, Nathan Parks, Tel Phelps, Mason Repshire, Murphy Seim, Colton White, Faith Wolf, Mattie Best, Avery Bradley, Emma Castelli, Brandon Chavez, Brody Ditto, Mason Farrell, Derek Gropp, Madelyn Hayes, Hunter Kindlesparger, Bryce Lange, Morgan Linenberger, Jennifer Nunez, Myah Ward, Jordan Werner

4th Grade:

Tifanie Becker, Reilly Brin, Kodee Christensen, Cody Clancy, Tanier Clifford, Morgan Davenport, Kale Flesher, Baleigh Griffin, Levi Harapat, Konon Hays, Tempest Henry, Baylee Kohman, Riley McKain, Madison Mick, Megan Northcutt, Emily Oberle, Sydney Omli, Amanda Schneider, Duncan Anglin, Kyle Came, Bailey Chermak, Katelyn Edgerton, Hunter Hayes, Evan Irish, Kylee Jones, Milah Linenberger, Caden Nelson, Kathryn Relph, John Riedel, Maria Rodriguez, Madison Schuman, Randi Sheridan, Alex VonLintel, Emily Wagner, Tyler Weems, Vaiden White, Miranda Work

5th Grade:

Katie Adam, Rosanna Arias, Reagan Basinger, Devin Bowers, Noah Bradley, Braden Cox, Stalee Diehl, Spencer Kochanowski, Chance Miller, Yadira Nunez, Morgan Parker, Matthew Parks, Keaghan Patrick, Tova Plumer, Catelyn Richards, Luke Sheridan, Ashlyn Bird, Dakota Came, Adrian Castelli, Timothy Collins, Riley Drees, Delaney Ellis, Jessica Henderson, Arelia Herrman, Jordan Holcom, Morgan Kindlesparger, Gregory Mason, Kimberly McCready, Tyler Short, Katelynn Winter

6th Grade:

Zachary Farrell, Chance Finch, Austin Funk, Nick Griffin, Garrett Jacobson, ToriLynn Miser, Fallyn Morrival, Cody Walters, Darby Wikoff, William Wilvers, Luiz Arceo, Kamdon Basinger, Emma Drees, Chase Finch, Miranda Merrill, Evan Morrival, Charlee Powell, Blake Repshire, Terra Tanuis

Submitted by Kathy Randolph and Amber Fouard

READY FOR SURGERY?

Well, maybe not quite, but at least they have a much better idea of what a surgeon does and the requirements necessary to become a surgeon. On March 11th, six students from Ell-Saline High School visited the Cloud County Health Center in Concordia and explored the wide variety of careers available in the health care field.

Faith Rasmussen, Grace Boyd, Michelle Kejr, Bailey Base, Mariah Jones, and Kaleb Beaugh spent the day exploring everything from physician assistant to pharmacy, from radiology to rehabilitation.

It was a great opportunity for students to observe each area of health care, ask questions of those working in the career, and discuss what steps can be taken now to prepare for the profession. It was a very educational day for the students, and we are grateful to Cloud County Health Center for providing this opportunity.



Photo:

Bailey Base, Mariah Jones, and Kaleb Beaugh observe the surgical center at Cloud County Health Center.

MORE ACTIVITIES TO DO AT HOME WITH YOUR CHILD

Here are some more activities that you can do with your child during his/her free time:

1. Make a collage of pictures from a magazine.
2. Begin a "made up" story and let your child finish it for you.
3. Give direction to your child and make sure he/she follows it. Then give two or three directions all at once until he/she learns to remember all that you have said.
4. Let older children in the family help you with your little ones. Reading stories to little brothers and sisters helps younger and older alike.
5. Let your child help you whenever possible. Let him/her help you sort the wash, set the table, etc.
6. Cut out cartoons from the newspaper and let your child write his/her own captions. You can also cut comic strips apart and let him/her put them back in the right order.
7. Take your child to the library. If your child doesn't own a library card, getting one will be a happy experience.
8. Make sock or mitten puppets. Sew or glue eyes and hair on them, put it on your hand, and use your fingers and thumb to open and close the "mouth". Talking and playing with a puppet can be a lot of fun!
9. A house hunt can be a game. Take your child into a room and let him/her search for things such as objects made of wood, made of glass, things that move, big things, blue things, pairs, opposites, etc. Use your imagination and have fun.
10. Try to be patient. Don't forget that young children often need to have new ideas repeated several times. Remember to praise your child when he/she succeeds. If you run out of ideas, there is no substitute for reading a book to your child.

USD 307 TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

One of the requirements for continuing to receive E-RATE funding, as well as to make more informed decisions in the future, is that we have a current Technology Plan on file. A component of the plan is that we survey the various district stakeholders (students, staff, parents/patrons) for their satisfaction/needs/wants/direction. We will survey all of our students in grades 4-12 and all of our staff by way of electronic means again this year. Tabulation of these surveys will also be done electronically. Surveying of parents/patrons will be done with the old paper-pencil method with tabulation being done manually which is a time-consuming task. Rather than mail the survey to everyone in the district, we are using the ECHO mailing list (which contains roughly 820 names) and randomly selecting every third name from it to receive the survey. We will be mailing these out during the week of March 30. If you would like to participate and share your thoughts but didn't receive a survey by **April 10**, please contact the District Office (785-225-6813) or e-mail me at jminneman@ellsaline.org and we will get one to you. Last year we received back a large percentage of the surveys and they were of great help as we planned for this year. Thank you in advance to everyone that will be helping us this year as we continue to improve the educational opportunities at USD 307 EII-Saline.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check for changes at www.ellsaline.org

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| Apr. 2 | 2:00 MS Track @ Tescott | Apr. 21 | 3:00 HS Track @ Russell (Wilson) |
| Apr. 3 | 4:00 HS SB/BSB @ Canton/Galva | Apr. 22 | Careers 2009 @ Salina |
| Apr. 4 | HS Science Olympiad @ Wichita | Apr. 22 | 9:00-10:00/1:00-2:00 Kindergarten Roundup |
| Apr. 4 | ACT Test Date | Apr. 22 | 6:30 FFA Banquet |
| Apr. 6 | FFA @ Clay Center | Apr. 22 | Administrative Professionals Day |
| Apr. 6 | 6:30 CPTA Mtg. at Ell-Saline Elementary | Apr. 23 | 3:00 MS Track @ Inman |
| Apr. 7 | ELECTION DAY | Apr. 23 | High School Play |
| Apr. 7 | 3:30 MS Quiz Bowl HOA League @ Trinity Catholic | Apr. 24 | 3:00 HS Track @ Lincoln |
| Apr. 7 | 4:00 SB/BSB Inman @ Ell-Saline | Apr. 24 | 3:00 SB/BSB @ Bennington |
| Apr. 7 | 6:00 ESIC Meeting at Ell-Saline Elementary | Apr. 24 | High School Play |
| Apr. 8 | 9:00 HOA HS Art @ Canton/Galva | Apr. 25 | 9:00-3:00 CPTA Track @ Ell-Saline High School |
| Apr. 8 | HOA League | Apr. 25 | FFA @ Washington |
| Apr. 8 | FFA @ Concordia | Apr. 25 | HS Music State |
| Apr. 8 | MS/HS Site Council | Apr. 25 | High School Play |
| Apr. 9 | 3:30 HS Track @ SES | Apr. 27 | 4:00 HS JV Track @ Tescott |
| Apr. 9 | 4:30 SB/BSB @ Lincoln | Apr. 27 | 7:00 4-6th Grade Spring Fling at Ell-Saline High School |
| Apr. 10 | NO SCHOOL—Easter Break | Apr. 28 | 9:15 MS Track @ Beloit (So. Cloud) |
| Apr. 10 | Good Friday | Apr. 28 | 4:00 SB/BSB @ Sedgwick |
| Apr. 12 | Easter | Apr. 29 | 7:00 Spring Concert (5-12 Band; 7-12 Vocal) |
| Apr. 13 | NO SCHOOL—Easter Break | Apr. 30 | 3:00 MS Track @ Bennington |
| Apr. 13 | 3:00 HS Track @ Bennington | Apr. 30 | 4:30 SB/BSB @ Sylvan Grove |
| Apr. 14 | 4:00 SB Trinity @ Ell-Saline | | |
| Apr. 14 | 4:00 BSB Little River @ Ell-Saline | | |
| Apr. 15 | HS Music State—Large Group | | |
| Apr. 15 | HS Art @ Hays | | |
| Apr. 16 | HS Music State—Large Group | | |
| Apr. 16 | 3:00 MS Track @ Ell-Saline | | |
| Apr. 17 | 4:00 SB/BSB @ Moundridge | | |
| Apr. 18 | Junior/Senior Prom | | |
| Apr. 20 | FFA @ Clay Center | | |
| Apr. 20 | 6:30 After Prom Meeting at Ell-Saline High School | | |
| Apr. 20 | 7:00 BOE Meeting at Ell-Saline District Office | | |

ELL-SALINE MS/HS 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, chain gang, timers, line judges, clock operators, scorers and any other positions that come available depending on the event. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Chris Carazo at the district office (225-6813).

NO LONGER WISH TO RECEIVE THE ECHO?

You may be receiving it because you are a patron of the District not necessarily because you are a parent or grandparent of someone attending the school. There are at times area informational articles/inserts in this newsletter. But, if you no longer wish to receive the ECHO, please call either one of the schools or the District Office (785-225-6813) and let the secretaries know and you will be removed from our mailing list. The ECHO is available to view online at www.ellsaline.org. Thank you.

An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency
The Ell-Saline U.S.D. 307 Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, handicap or age in admission or access to, or treatment in, its programs or activities. Any questions regarding the board's compliance with Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 may be directed to the Title IX coordinator, who can be reached at (785) 225-6813, 412 E. Anderson, P.O. Box 157, Brookville, KS 67425, or to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education.

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412 E. Anderson P.O. Box 157
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