



# THE ELL-SALINE ECHO

**March 2009**

Check us out at [www.ellsaline.org](http://www.ellsaline.org)

## **40% - What is that all about?**

**That is the percentage that the state will pay on our proposed facilities improvement project. 40% is estimated to be \$5.66 million.**

To learn more about your USD 307 Facilities needs.

A Patron Informational Meeting will be held on

**Thursday, February 26, 7:00 p.m.  
at the MS/HS Old Gym**

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about the needs of your district.

## **KIDS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE (Keep Improving District Schools)**

The KIDS Executive Committee has been meeting on a regular basis developing plans to share information with district patrons before the April 7<sup>th</sup> Election Day. The information that will be shared is that of our district facilities challenges and solutions. Plans are being finalized for developing and distributing information, scheduling informational meetings and other activities to educate voters about the challenges, proposed improvements and the bond issue cost. A brochure is enclosed in this edition of the ECHO. Look for more information to be mailed within the next few weeks.

There are presently two Informational Meetings scheduled and patrons are encouraged to attend one of them. Along with presentations by the KIDS Executive Committee, both the architect, Jeff Gillam, and the campaign advisor, Steve Shogren, will be presenting and available for questions. Both of these have been publicized in a variety of ways. One of them will have

taken place on Monday, February 23, at the elementary school. The second will take place in the Old Gym at the Middle/High School on Thursday, February 26, at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided and babysitting will be available.

We are hopeful that everyone will take advantage of the numerous opportunities that will be available to learn more about our facilities needs and solutions so that an informed decision can be made at the polls on Tuesday, April 7.

Any district patrons interested in joining the KIDS Committee or assisting with the bond issue informational campaign is encouraged to contact one of the KIDS Executive Committee members (Tom Omi, Joe Armstrong, Kirk Cates, Mindy Schneider, Linda Arceo, Robbyn Anglin, Amber Fouard, Delbert Armbrust, Geena Kejr, Jamie Bradley, Cheryl Higgins, Jeff Parker, Paul Alexander) or Superintendent Jerry Minneman at the district offices (225-6813).

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE**

February 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

SRO Flesher – His report included: he has started teaching the GREAT coursework to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class; DARE coursework is being taught to the 6<sup>th</sup> graders; he will be getting a different vehicle and the MS/HS students are designing the art work for it; shared information on the POLAR PLUNGE; and stated that it has been a calm year with the new rules continuing to work.

BOE – None

Mr. Alexander – His report included: the band and vocal students have been active with members attending the KSU Band Clinic and Youth for Music Festival at CCCC as well as performing for home basketball games; Ms. Grover continues preparing for the HOA MS Music Contest that

we will host on March 10; the HS Scholar's Bowl team recently competed at the Regional contest where they represented us well although they didn't qualify for state; the FFA students have been busy with various contests and a trip to Denver; Lee Weis has been named the State of Kansas Ideas Unlimited Most Innovative Ag Teacher for the year; the 8<sup>th</sup> graders will soon be taking the NAEP Assessment; Mr. Laas is working with staff and students in developing a list of potential courses for next year; and gave the dates of post-season basketball and wrestling tournaments.

Mrs. Sprinkle – In her absence do to covering the MS basketball game at Inman, Mr. Minneman gave her report which included: distributing the Elementary School newsletter; state assessment update; Parent-Teacher Conferences will be February 18 & 19; the February 18 in-service activities will be on writing strategies; Parents' Night for Bullying Prevention has been rescheduled for Monday, February 23, at 7:00; and that the year continues to go well.

Mr. Minneman – His report included: Fire Marshal inspection findings; update on school funding cuts for this year; progress at the baseball field; progress with COX for increased bandwidth; and shared a list of meetings out-of-the-district he will be attending before the next meeting.

## BUSINESS

**PALS Program**—Sponsor, Ms. Scutte, and students, Morgan Lindsey and Emily Smith, gave an update on activities that the PALS students have been involved with this year. They also asked that the district consider helping with funding since it is becoming increasingly difficult to receive grants.

**Supplemental Resignation**—Dane Baxa's resignation as HS Asst. Boys' Basketball Coach effective February 6 was accepted.

**Supplemental Positions**—John Johnson was approved to fill the position of HS Asst. Boys' Basketball Coach. Kristin Long was approved to fill the position of Drama Sponsor for this spring.

**Capital Outlay Mill Levy**—A motion authorizing the continuation of the Capital Outlay Mill Levy not to exceed 4 mills for 5 years was approved.

**End-of-School-Year Activities**—It was the consensus of the board to again host an end-of-school- year luncheon for all staff. The date was set for Tuesday, May 19, 1:00, at a location yet to be determined (one of the two school buildings).

**Senior Trip Air Travel**—Permission was given for the seniors to fly to Orlando, Florida, for their trip.

**Facilities** — Information from the February 4 KIDS Executive Committee meeting with Steve Shogren was shared. Currently there are two Community Informational meetings scheduled. The first will be on Monday, February 23, at 7:45 at the Elementary School. The second will be on Thursday, February 26, at 7:00 at the Middle/High School. Discussion was also held on the use of the property to the west of the MS/HS site. The consensus was that Mr. Weis could continue with plans to use part of the northeast portion of the property

for gardening activities with his classes. It was also the consensus that we are to begin procedures to sell the house located on the property with the stipulation that it is to be removed from the property.

There were three Executive Sessions (2 – Personnel, 1 – Negotiations). No action was taken following any of them.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, March 9, 7:00 p.m. in the District Office. 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.

## CPTA MINUTES for Monday, February 2, 2009

### Attendance:

Darci Ditto	Mendee Kramer	Darcy Bradley
Angela Hopkins	Lisa Wilvers	Casey Cox
Desiree O'Shea	Amber Fouard	Dawn Pierce
Kimberly Mick	Jon Peterson	Dawn Peterson
JaNae Basinger	Mindy Schneider	

Minutes were reviewed from the November meeting. Amber Fouard motioned to approve minutes and Casey Cox seconded. Motion passed.

### Principal's Report

Darcy Bradley reported for Mrs. Sprinkle. A schedule of upcoming events was reported.

2/10- Individual and Group Pictures

2/12- Dance Camp Practice at Elementary School, 3:45 pm-6:30 pm

2/13- Dance Camp Performs at High School. Be at the game by 7:30 pm

2/16- CPTA Meeting, 6:30 pm

2/17- Skate night, 6:30 pm-8:00 pm

2/18, 2/19, and 2/20- NO SCHOOL, Conferences will be held Wednesday night and all day Thursday.

2/23- Parent's Night for Bullying Prevention, 7:00 pm

### Treasurers Report:

Checking Balance: \$17,551.70

Library Fund Balance: \$4,207.96

Angela Hopkins reported we paid out a holiday match to the Cardinal Foundation of \$130. We made \$168.89 on the Pizza Hut Fundraiser which was donated to the Johnson family. We also made \$93.30 on the Spangles fundraiser.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Candle Sales Follow-up

Casey Cox reported that CPTA made a profit of \$4358.41 on the candle sales. We have \$193.00 worth of candles in inventory that were returned and refunded. The bonus items came in and are being delivered.

### Read with Santa Follow-up

Mindy Schneider reported it was cancelled due to bad weather.

### Pizza Hut Night Follow-up

Darcy Bradley reported we made \$168.89 which was donated to the Johnson family.

### **Spangles Night Follow-up**

Darcy Bradley reported that \$93.30 was made the night of the fundraiser.

### **Die-Cut Follow-up**

Darcy Bradley reported for Kim Parks. The die-cuts were ordered and are being used. Kindergarten and 1st grade were the grades to order this year.

### **Pennant Sales Follow-up**

Angela Hopkins reported only a few were sold but these were advertised at a very busy time and order forms will go out again at the end of this year or maybe the beginning of next year.

### **Yearbook Update**

Darcy Bradley reported for Courtney Clifford. So far 99 yearbooks have been sold. Another flyer will go out in book bags soon.

### **Box-Top/Soup Label Update**

Darci Ditto reported she just mailed in 2,490 soup labels for a total of 4,992 points. She also has received a check from box tops in the amount of \$127.00 and just mailed in more and should get a check for \$394.00 in April.

### **Elmo Purchase Follow-up**

Darcy Bradley reported for Mrs. Sprinkle. Mr. Bell has received new quotes and they may be able to order 3 models, this is still being looked into.

### **Marquee Update**

Angela Hopkins reported they are still waiting to hear back from Mrs. Sprinkle and the school administration. Darcy Bradley reported she had talked with Mrs. Sprinkle and received word that the school didn't want the sign to light up. Angela said she would move forward with the plans.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Reading Renaissance**

Amber Fouard reported that the Reading Celebration/ Game Night for 1st and 2nd grades will be May 12th. It is incorrect on the school calendar. The 3rd-6th graders will be going to The City this year for Lock-In. This will be held during the school day and teachers will accompany the students there. The price is \$700 for 3 hours. The kids can enjoy the same activities and eat snacks. They will be going to the park before and having a sack lunch picnic. Any student not attending Lock-In will remain at the school and do regular classroom work.

#### **Spring Picture Update**

Darcy Bradley reported for Cher Richards. A volunteer sign up sheet was passed around. Class pictures and individual pictures will be taken. The date is Tuesday, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Valentine's Party Update**

Darcy Bradley reported for Julie Weems. The parties will be in the morning of Friday, Feb. 13th from 8:30-9:00am, except for K-PM, which will be at 1:05-1:30pm. The teachers again would like to suggest that parents bring a healthier snack due to the parties being in the morning. Ideas were bread, cheese, oatmeal cookies, milk, and yogurt.

#### **Family Skate Night Update**

Darcy Bradley reported for Cher Richards. The skate night is Tuesday, Feb. 17th from 6:30-8:00pm. The cost is \$3.00 per person and there are scholarships available. The skate party is for elementary students and younger

siblings.

### **P/T Conference Lunches**

Darcy Bradley reported for Angela Allen. Lunch will be provided to the teachers during parent teacher conferences. A sign up sheet was sent around asking for volunteers to bring soda.

### **Other New Business**

Dawn Peterson announced that Mrs. Pickering had a baby girl. CPTA will be sending something to the family.

Darcy Bradley reported that JT Enterprise would like the chance to meet with CPTA and discuss us using them for our fundraisers. A committee will be formed to talk with someone from this company and decide to bring it to CPTA or not.

Mindy Schneider reported that she is on a committee for the bond issue. She is asking for volunteers to be on her committee. The committee would help promote support for the bond issue.

Darcy Bradley reported that the March fundraiser will be at Burger King. They will allow us to do 2 fundraiser nights a year. They will allow artwork from students of Ell-Saline to be displayed in their children's area. The date is Monday, March 30th and CPTA gets 20% of all profit, no coupon is necessary.

### **Door Prize**

**WINNER OF THE \$20 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO TARGET - MENDEE KRAMER**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**Next CPTA Meeting, Monday, February 16, 2009 at 6:30.**

Submitted by Secretary Mendee Kramer

### **CPTA Candle Fundraiser Thank You**

The ESE CPTA would like to thank all of you who purchased and helped sell candles for our fall fundraiser. We sincerely apologize for all the problems and substitutions that had to be made and would like to say thank you for your patience and understanding. Also, thanks to those who organized and sorted the candle orders. We ended up making over \$4,300. This money will go towards school improvements and projects.

### **CPTA Restaurant Night Updates**

Our November fundraising night was held at Chili's restaurant. We had great participation and earned \$61.81. In December, we held a fundraising night at Pizza Hut. We made \$168.89 from the night and we donated all the money to the Johnson family. Thanks for the great turnout! Thanks to all of you who also came out to support our January fundraising night at Spangles. We made a total of \$93.30. Way to go Cardinals.

### **CPTA Yearbook Reminder**

Now is your chance to order our all-elementary yearbook published by the CPTA. Each classroom has a page of faces and then a fun page. This year's book will be full color! Make the memories last and order one today. They

are \$16 per book. Send a note and money to school with your student or get an order form off the district webpage under CPTA. It will be ready to deliver before school is out in May!

### **CPTA Meeting Reminder**

Our next CPTA meeting is on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm in the music room at ESE. Besides free babysitting and snack, we will also have a drawing for a gift certificate. Hope to see you there!

### **Box Top/Soup Label Reminder**

Just a reminder to keep the box tops, soup labels, and Pure Life Water bottle labels coming! We love seeing the collection box so full! We are also taking pop can tabs. Ronald McDonald houses collect the pop can tabs and recycles them for money for their program. All the box tops, labels and tabs can be left at the ESE office. Thanks for your help.

## **CPTA MINUTES for Monday, February 16, 2009**

### **Attendance:**

Darcy Bradley	Jamie Bradley	Dana Sprinkle
Julie Weems	Mendee Kramer	Angela Hopkins
Kerry Basinger	JaNae Basinger	Mindy Schneider
Amber Fouard	Lisa Wilvers	Dawn Pierce
Andrea Rhodes	Cher Richards	Dana Edgerton
Karla Alley	Kim Parks	Jana Winters

Minutes from November 2008 meeting were amended to read the correct Library fund amount; Jamie Bradley made a motion to approve, seconded by Kim Parks. Motion passed. The minutes from the February 2, 2009 meeting were reviewed. Motion to pass minutes made by Kim Parks, seconded by Mindy Schneider. Motion passed.

### **Principal's Report**

Mrs. Sprinkle reported that parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for this week the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>; there will be no school the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, or 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Bullying Prevention meeting for parents at the elementary school is scheduled for Monday, February 23, 2009, at 7pm. There will be a meeting on the upcoming bond issue at 7:45pm following the Bullying Prevention meeting. Building tours will be available at this time.

Kindergarten round-up is coming in April. If anyone has a child who will be in Kindergarten, please make sure to contact Mrs. Smith and let Mrs. Sprinkle know.

State assessments are starting March 9<sup>th</sup>; teachers will discuss these more with parents at conferences. Last year CPTA paid for snacks during testing; this will be provided again. The theme for the testing this year is "Mission Possible".

There will be no school on Tuesday, March 10, 2009, due to the middle/high school hosting the league music competition; the elementary staff will have an in-service

this day. This is not on the school calendar.

3 portable Elmo's have been purchased with CPTA funds for the school; they were \$530 a piece.

Happy Bear presentations will be next week for grades Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Notes will be going home with students.

### **Treasurers Report:**

Checking Balance: \$17,572.72

Library Fund Balance: \$4,336.75

Discussion was held about increasing the hospitality budget to \$400.00 for the year, an increase of \$150.00. Amber Fouard moved to increase the budget, Kim Parks seconded. Motion passed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Spring Picture Update**

Cher Richards reported that pictures went very well. She would like to thank all of the volunteers that helped.

A question was asked about using LifeTouch next year. Darcy Bradley reminded the group that we discussed this last year and met with other companies. It was decided LifeTouch was the best option for our school. We are still getting money from LifeTouch from picture sales, and this will be corrected with LifeTouch, as we want picture prices to be as low as possible.

#### **Skate Night Update**

Cher Richards reported that Skate Night is Tuesday, February 17, 2009 from 6:30-8:00pm.

#### **Parent/Teacher Conference Update**

The lunches are set and organized for the teachers; reminded anyone who signed up to bring drinks to bring them to the school.

#### **Burger King Night Update**

Darcy Bradley reported that everything is set up for Monday, March 30, 2009 from 5pm-8pm. CPTA will get 20% of total sales during this time frame, no flyer necessary. Darcy is working with Ms. Marshall on a coloring contest for the students to participate in. Burger King is allowing art and student projects to be displayed on this night.

#### **Marquee Update**

Angela Hopkins reported that she met with Mrs. Sprinkle and they discussed the marquee. The sign will not have any lights on it. Jeremy Hopkins will get a proposal prepared this week. We will have to put a 50% deposit down. Many questions will follow about color, size, etc.

#### **Prairie Land Food Update**

Kim Parks talked with the representative from Prairie Land Foods. Kim, Darcy Bradley, and Mindy Schneider will go over dates they can meet with her and hear about the service they offer and bring the info back to CPTA.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **School Beautification Committee**

Mendee Kramer informed the committee that Kim Parks

and she are meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> at the skating party. They will be discussing trash cans for the playground area, posters for the school building, and landscaping. They would like to go ahead and move forward with the trash cans and posters and asked that CPTA approve a budget. Julie Weems moved to approve \$1200.00 for the committee to use, Karla Alley seconded. Motion passed.

### **Upcoming Bond Issue**

Jamie Bradley and Amber Fouard gave an informative presentation to the group on the upcoming bond issue.

### **Door Prize**

### **WINNER OF THE \$20 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO LOWE'S – AMBER FOUARD**

Motion to adjourn by Kim Parks, seconded by Amber Fouard. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

### **Next CPTA Meeting, Monday, March 23, 2009 at 6:30.**

Submitted by Secretary, Mendee Kramer

## **PROM-A-RAMA 2009**

The fifth annual Prom-a-Rama prom dress give away event will be held March 7, 2009 at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 111 W. Magnolia Rd., Salina, KS From 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. The previous Prom-a-Rama events were very successful with many girls receiving dresses and accessory items. To receive a dress, the girls need to attend the give away and provide proof of being a high school student. Once the girl has shown her identification she will be admitted to the give away and there will be volunteers to help her find the perfect dress. There will also be seamstresses to make on-site alterations or minor repairs. If you wish to contact someone about this event you may call Brenda Siemsen at 785-493-8154 or Hank Corcoran Boyer at 785-452-5706 or e-mail [hboyer@cox.net](mailto:hboyer@cox.net).

## **BOOSTER CLUB NOTES**

Thank you for all those who volunteered their time for the youth basketball tournament that was held at the end of January. The event was a huge success, as well an outstanding fundraiser. Our organization received many complements for a well ran tournament. We have many awesome members, and an event as large as this couldn't have been done without you!

Our next Booster Club meeting is March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the MS/HS cafeteria

## **FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK**

Here we are already! It's practically the end of the third 9-weeks! In just three short months school will be out for the summer. Between now and then there is a considerable amount yet to be accomplished for this year and planning to be done for next year.

We appreciate all the parents that took the time to come and visit with us during the Parent-Teacher Conferences. That communication and support is very important in your child's education. Next week we will begin to administer the Kansas State Assessments. This year's tests include: grades 3 through 8 in both math and reading; grade 10 in math; grade 11 in reading; grades 4, 7, 10 and 11 in science; and grades 5, 8, and 11 in writing. The students and staff have been working hard in preparation of the assessments as we look to continue our tradition of numerous students and classes scoring in the Exemplary category and meeting the Standard of Excellence. We ask that you encourage your children to do their best, get adequate sleep and eat a nutritious breakfast during these testing days.

This legislative session is proving to be as challenging as was anticipated. The financial forecast for the state, as well as the nation, does not appear to get any better in the near future. This is partly do to the economy as a whole and partly do to tax cuts of previous, as well as the current, years. Regardless of the reason, all services funded through the state are faced with reductions in their budget. Currently there is a bill in front of the Governor that will reduce state aid to all schools by \$66 on the Base State Aid Per Pupil (BSAPP) and a reduction in funding for Special Education. While this may not sound like much for each student when it is all computed it is a reduction of \$58,135 for us. It is enough to have an affect on what we are able to do in preparation for next year. Of greater concern to us what is the reduction going to be the next couple of years. So far all we've heard is speculation but we are anticipating a larger reduction than for this year.

Fortunately for our district and community our school board and administration have exercised greater fiscal responsibility in past years that prepare us for times such as these than have some of the elected state legislators. As our resources likely will be tighter we will have to make some difficult decisions. Education of our students will remain the first priority of our school board and administrators. Any resource reallocation that occurs will have that in mind. Your school board, administration and faculty take seriously the responsibility of educating the youth of our community. As we work through these difficult economic times we will strive to continue the outstanding education you have come to expect from USD 307. We will continue to make financial decisions that balance fiscal responsibility and the highest quality of education.

Thank you for your continued trust and confidence in the EII-Saline USD 307 school district. You can be assured that your children are receiving a quality education. Please call or stop in so we can visit about the many good things going on in your district and we can get to know each other.

## ***And the mystery song is ...***

This year, one of the newest traditions for the band is a themed Pep Band night. At each of the home games, the students dress up according to a certain theme for each

night. Some of this year's themes have included Hawaiian, Spanish, Retro, Cowboy/Cowgirl, Valentine's Day, and T.V./Movie Star Night. Then at half time of the varsity girls' game, the band plays a short song that is associated with the theme. Any audience member who knows the song title gets the chance to guess. Both members of the Ell-Saline audience and our visitors have been lucky enough to win the theme prize that is given away with the first correct answer.

## **PARENTING: HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED**

Parents often ask what they can do at home to help their children be successful at school. The following suggestions are offered as ways for parents to help. Many are basic, common sense ideas, which many parents are doing already. By following these guidelines, you and your child will have better feelings toward one another, and your child may well become more successful in school.

- Talk with and read to your child.
- Discuss color, size, shape, visual matching, following directions, and name recognition.
- Follow and discuss news events as covered on TV and also as reported in the newspaper.
- Keep your child well and rested.
- Pay attention to your child's nutritional needs.
- Ensure that your child gets sufficient sleep.
- Help your child learn to cope with emotions.
- Listen to your child, and learn to know him/her as a unique individual.
- Encourage your child to talk about activities, feelings, and concerns.
- Praise your child. Let him/her know that you believe he/she can succeed.
- Acknowledge effort as well as success—small and big efforts, small and big successes.
- Discipline lovingly and consistently.
- Show an interest in school.
- Visit your child's classroom.
- Keep in contact with your child's teachers.
- Attend school activities.
- Give your child responsibilities.
- Accept your child as he/she is.
- Help your child set realistic goals.
- Don't compare your child with other children. All children develop differently.
- Read books, go to the library, and play educational games.
- Show selectivity in choosing TV programs.

You have a tremendous and far-reaching influence on your child. You can make the difference. Happy parenting!

## **WELDING CLASS TO BE TAUGHT**

Ell-Saline Industrial Arts will host a welding class on Thursday, March 12 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the shop building. The class is titled "Basics of Maintenance and Repair Welding" The class will be taught by Lyle Tinkler an Airgas representative. The class will deal with:

- Identifying unfamiliar metals
- Dirty, rusty, or galvanized steels
- High strength and tool steels
- Buildup and hardfacing for wear
- Aluminum welding and brazing
- Silver brazing dissimilar metals
- Low temp silver solder repairs
- Airless cutting and gouging
- Cast Iron joining or rebuilding

Lyle will demonstrate and give information on these areas. People attending will not be welding but will need a welding helmet to watch. This class is ideal for farmers, maintenance people, hobbyists or anyone wanting to learn more about metal and welding. The cost is \$50 in advance , \$75 at the door. ( Half of this will be donated back to the school ) Pizza and pop will be provided. The class is limited to 20 people. For questions or to enroll call Lyle Tinkler or Kent Harder at 827-9646. Enrollment forms can also be picked up from John Johnson at the High School.

## **GO-CARTS GALORE!**

The Industrial Arts dept. will have three go-carts for sale this spring. The go-carts will be shown on our website starting in March. They will be on display at the high school awards night on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. The go-carts will be sold by way of silent auction starting the night of the May 7<sup>th</sup> and the bidding will run until 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> which is the last day of school. More information on the bidding will be posted later. The go-carts were custom designed and built by Ell-Saline students. They are of the highest quality and made with pride in the USA!

Submitted by John Johnson

“If We Build It, The CARDS Will Come”

In our efforts to be consistently competitive at the middle school/high school level in football, the middle school staff is interested in sharing their time and talents with future Cardinal football players at the grade school.

Learning the basic football fundamentals is very important to any successful football program. Establishing a network between our team and the Salina Salvation Army football program is a first step in building prideful and successful teams – and one we look forward to creating.

Toward the end of this summer our middle school staff is interested in sponsoring a free football camp for students who will be entering the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2009-2010 school year at Ell-Salina Elementary. This camp will promote the fundamentals of football, allow boys to learn about the philosophy of football, enjoy positive competition and to hopefully, generate interest in being a part of Salvation Army football in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade years in the future. Teams that are formed having a majority of kids from the same school offer many advantages. Two of the most obvious advantages are 1.) teamwork and 2.) a positive and smooth transition into middle and high school football play. Our coaching staff believes that it never is only one player on the field- it is a team of players on the field. We never win or lose because of one; we win or lose as a team. If these philosophies are believed, supported, and implemented and if the physical fundamentals of the game are taught, applied and practiced, the transition into the sports aspect of middle school/high school will be smoother and will be seen as the “expectation,” and not a “new way” to play football.

Money to support this endeavor is a factor. If enough young students are interested in this opportunity, fundraisers may become a consideration. But, for now just interest and commitment are what we are looking for. If we get enough feedback promptly, we will proceed in developing camp dates and meeting with those parents who are interested.

If you are interested in this idea for your son or sons, please contact:

Jeremy Miller  
e-mail: [jtmiller@ellsaline.org](mailto:jtmiller@ellsaline.org)  
home phone: 785-643-0325  
school phone: 785-225-6633

Sincerely,

Head Coach  
Offensive Coordinator  
Off. Backfield Coach/Def. backs Coach  
Jeremy Miller

Defensive Coordinator  
Receivers Coach/LB Coach  
Dale Dodd

Special Teams Coordinator  
Offensive Line Coach/Def. Line Coach  
Chad Flesher

Next Week

**Thursday, February 26**

**Bullying Parent Meeting 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM In the Library**

A description of our Olweus Program and how we are implementing it.

Face Book demonstration Facts and Myths plus questions and answer time.

We will cover the Middle/Senior High School bullying program and hear what we as a school are doing to reduce bullying in our school. The second part will be a chance for parents to see an actual face book demonstration to see what and how students are communicating with each other.

**Public Bond Issue Meeting 7:00**

**PM in the small gym**

presentation of the upcoming Bond Issue will be presented.

Spokesmen from the KIDS group will share information on the districts proposed bond issue.

# Music Honor Groups

A little recognized season takes place from the first of November until the first of February: Honor Bands and Choirs. Each of these groups required an audition of sorts and took place in many locations around the state. Our Ell-Saline musicians have been very active and well-represented during this season.

## KMEA Auditions

On November 1, six students and Mrs. Joan Grover traveled to Junction City High School to audition for placement in the North Central Kansas Music Educators' Honor Choir and Band. Both groups did a "blind" audition where the judges were behind a screen and the student was given a number for identification.

The band students—Michelle Kejr, Tamra Nelson, Amanda Reed—prepared a number of scales (the judges selected one that morning) and an audition etude; in addition, they had to "sight-read" a piece of music they had never seen before. Vocal students Skylar Dreyer, Annika Patrick, and Faith Rasmussen prepared 3 pieces (one in Latin) in preparation for the auditions. They had to prepare all the music and then were given the selected excerpts only one week before the auditions. Faith Rasmussen qualified for the choir.

## HOA Honor Band

The next honor group was the Heart of America League Honor Band on November 10 at Inman High School.



The band teachers in the league met in early September and selected the league's top musicians based on instrumentation needs and students' musical accomplishments. Jesse Freeman, Seirra Oberle, Tamra Nelson, and Michelle Kejr returned for the second year; Keenan Toll, Dillon Dreyer, and Marie VonLintel also qualified. Although selected, Keenan was unable to attend due to illness. Dr. Frank Tracz, Director of Bands at K-State, was surprised and pleased at the preparation of the band because the selected music was more difficult than many honor bands perform, and he commended both the students and the teachers for their hours of preparation.

After 3½ hours of rehearsal, the students broke for supper and a clothing change before they returned to the Inman gym for the concert that evening at 7:00.

*Dr. Tracz is working with the band. Look carefully and you can see Michelle Kejr, Tamra Nelson, Seirra Oberle, and Jesse Freeman.*

## KMEA District Honor Choir

Faith Rasmussen, Miss Amy Brandt, and Mrs. Grover got up early on December 5 to go to Manhattan High School for the Kansas Music Educators' North Central District Honor Choir rehearsal under the direction of Dr. Julie Yu from K-State. The day ended with a concert.

## Middle School KMEA District Choir

In January, the middle school also got involved. The North Central Kansas Music Educators' Middle School Honor Band and Choir spent January 17 at Junction City's brand new Middle School for rehearsal and a 2:00 concert. Ell-Saline was well represented by Kailey Ericsson, Miranda Basinger, Jackson McCain, and Matthew Rasmussen.



*Ell-Saline Band Members pose with Dr. Tracz before the concert. Band members are Dillon Dreyer, sophomore tuba; Jesse Freeman, junior trombone; Michelle Kejr,*



### K-State Honor Band Clinic

On the next Friday, January 23, eleven high school band members, Mrs. Grover, and Miss Brandt left at noon for the highly anticipated Kansas State Band Clinic. Over six hundred students from all over the state gathered on the K-State campus where they auditioned to determine their placement in a band directed by conductors from all over the country. This year's conductors included three from Alabama, one from Missouri, and two from Nebraska. After the auditions were completed, students gathered in McCain Auditorium for a concert by the K-State music department's students and faculty and got to hear some performances that gave the students a goal for their personal development.

Upon the conclusion of this concert, students received their band assignments and began a mass exodus to their assigned rehearsal spots. Tamra Nelson had to go almost a block to reach the Holiday Inn for her rehearsal; however, Dillon Dreyer, Keenan Toll, and Spencer Parker think they had to walk farther because they rehearsed in the Union; Chanda Williams and Tyler Cates' band met in the All-Faiths Chapel; Jamie Henry got to stay in McCain Hall because her band met in Room 204; and Amanda Reed, Michelle Kejr, Marie VonLintel, and Jesse Freeman went to Room 201 for their rehearsals. With these assignments, Michelle, Tamra, and Amanda found out they had improved their placement from last year's clinic. While all three ladies earned first part, Michelle was first part, first chair; Tamra was first part, second chair; and Amanda was first part, fourth chair.

With that rehearsal, students began approximately sixteen hours of rehearsal over the next two days. They also attended a master class taught by K-State faculty and a concert by the two K-State wind ensembles directed by Dr. Anthony Purcell and Dr. Frank Tracz.



*I spy.... Tyler Cates?*



*Chanda Williams?*



*Spencer Parker?*

Sunday morning began with staggered rehearsals so each band had an opportunity to rehearse on the stage in McCain Auditorium. Then, the concerts began at 1:00 with each band presenting a half-hour long concert of the music they had learned. During her band's portion, Michelle Kejr surprised the rest of us with a lengthy solo within a piece and was recognized by the director. These concerts are recorded and burned onto a CD which is sent to the director so each student can have his/her own copy. The students supported each other by staying the entire three hours of concerts, and by 5:00, we were on our weary way home full of ideas and music to work on with our own band.

### Youth For Music Honor Band and Choir

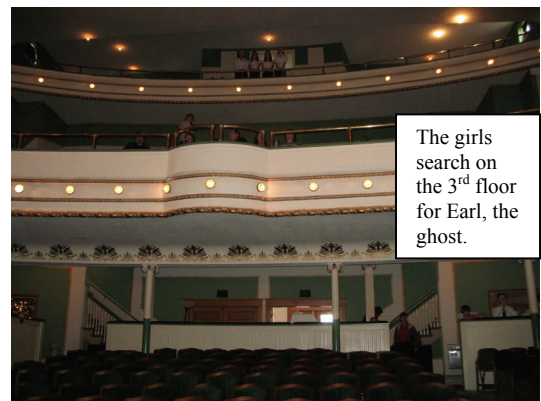
Our "season" ended with one final weekend event: the thirty-ninth annual Youth For Music in Concordia co-sponsored by Tom's Music House and Cloud County Community College.



Students, Miss Brandt, and Mrs. Grover left the high school early Saturday morning for a full day of rehearsals that ended at 4:00 that afternoon. They returned to Concordia on Sunday for more rehearsals and a 2:00 concert in the Brown Grand Theatre.

Michelle Kejr, Tamra Nelson, Amanda Reed, and Chanda Williams earned a place in this Honor Band that included numerous All-State players and was directed by Patrick Sieben from Cloud County. Sieben moved from California to Concordia to take over the band program, so, once again, our students were exposed to a high caliber conductor right down to his bright yellow Converse tennis shoes. When our students introduced themselves and told him where they were from, he remembered Ell-Saline because we are the school “beside the railroad track.” Joining him on the podium was

Dennis Ball from Minneapolis. The band rehearsed in the Brown Grande Theatre; our students also did some exploring of this restored and reportedly haunted theatre that is over one hundred years old and on the National Registry during their breaks.



The girls search on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor for Earl, the ghost.

*Amanda Reed said, “We are the lucky ones. We get to make the music. Everyone has a tune to their life, but we get to choose ours.”*



MaryKatherine Cookson, Alex Henry, Kevin Licharowicz, Annika Patrick, and Faith Rasmussen spent their rehearsal time at Cloud County in the Freshman/Sophomore Choir with three directors. Annika loved YFM because it was “fun and upbeat with lots of singing. What could be better?” Dr. Everett Miller, Cloud County director, chose two guest directors from the area, and each taught one song to the 9/10 Choir and one to the 11/12 Choir. The students really liked Mrs. Cindy Kauk from Phillipsburg as she taught them “riserography” to go with “The Lion Sleeps Tonight.” Kevin was selected for one of the solos in this piece.

Dr. Miller taught them “An African Wish (Peace, Love, & Unity” in Swahili, and their portion of the concert ended with a farewell message in “Let Everything” directed by Mr. James Pope from Jewell High School. Mary Katherine Cookson said, “I liked the different teaching methods we got to see (Mrs. Kauk was THE BEST!!), and we really hope we get to go again. Playing in the park was a nice break during our lunch time.”

There’s no rest for musicians as the band continues to play pep band at home ballgames and all of the music groups work on entries for music contests in March and April.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check for changes at [www.ellsaline.org](http://www.ellsaline.org)

Mar. 2 HS BB Sub-State Boys  
Mar. 2 4:00 MS Quiz Bowl @ Little River  
Mar. 2 FFA @ Minneapolis  
Mar. 3 HS BB Sub-State Girls  
Mar. 3 6:00 ESIC Meeting @ Ell-Saline Elementary  
Mar. 4 6:00 MS/HS Site Council  
Mar. 5 HS BB Sub-State Boys—Semifinals  
Mar. 5 End of Quarter  
Mar. 6 NO SCHOOL—Teacher Workday  
Mar. 6 ACT Registration Deadline  
Mar. 6 HS BB Sub-State Girls—Semifinals  
Mar. 7 HS BB Sub-State—Finals  
Mar. 8 Daylight Saving Time ends  
Mar. 9 FFA @ Concordia  
Mar. 9 7:00 BOE Meeting at Ell-Saline District Office  
Mar. 10 NO SCHOOL—Teacher In-Service  
Mar. 10 8:00 HOA MS Music @ Ell-Saline  
Mar. 11 HS BB State Boys  
Mar. 11 6:30 NHS Banquet  
Mar. 12 HS BB State Girls  
Mar. 13-14 FFA @ Junction City  
Mar. 13 HS BB State—Semifinals  
Mar. 14 HS BB State—Finals  
Mar. 16-20 NO SCHOOL—Spring Break

Mar. 23 6:30 CPTA Meeting at Ell-Saline Elementary  
Mar. 24 6:00 MS/HS Spring Sports Parent Meeting  
Mar. 24 7:00 Booster Club Meeting  
Mar. 25 FFA @ Blue Valley  
Mar. 27 4:00 BSB Smoky Valley @ Ell-Saline  
Mar. 28 TBA HS Music Regional  
Mar. 31 4:00 MS Quiz Bowl @ Bennington

## 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).

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