



# THE ELL-SALINE ECHO

May 2009

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

## THANK YOU TO THE PATRONS OF ELL-SALINE USD 307

On Tuesday, April 7, you made a strong statement about your feelings toward Ell-Saline USD 307 when you voted in support of the bond issue to provide much needed facilities improvements that will help us do an even better job of providing the needed programs and services to our students. I appreciate the time you took to attend the informational meetings, to read the brochures, to listen to the messages and talk shows on the radio, to watch the TV broadcast and to talk to other patrons about it. I know that this was not an easy decision as you weighed the increased opportunities for our students against the personal financial impact. On behalf of the current and future students of Ell-Saline USD 307—Thank You!

Jerry Minneman, Superintendent

## RETIREMENT RECEPTION FOR BARBARA KERN

Please join us for the celebration of the many years of service Barbara Kern has given to our schools. A reception in her honor will be held on May 17, 2009 at Ell-Saline Elementary from 2:00-3:00 P.M. We hope to see you there. THANK YOU, BARBARA, FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR OUR KIDS!!!

through 13. This camp is open to all girls that will be in the 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup> grades next school year. The cost is \$15.00 per girl.

For those parents who don't want to deal with crowds to buy school supplies, the CPTA is once again offering to help you with that. All you have to do is pre-order your package and it will be ready for you to pay for and pick up at enrollment. Prices will be determined at a later date but they will be very comparable to last year's prices. Your request can be e-mailed to [cpta@ellsaline.org](mailto:cpta@ellsaline.org), or you can call Darci Ditto (283-4248) or Angela Hopkins (827-5380).

Order forms, enrollment forms and informational sheets have been sent home with each of the elementary students. For additional forms or information please check our website ([www.ellsaline.org](http://www.ellsaline.org)) or contact Ell-Saline Elementary School (827-8891).

## CPTA PROJECTS

The Ell-Saline Elementary CPTA has several projects taking place this summer. These include: Summer Movies; Volleyball Camp for girls that will be in the 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup> grades next year; and providing a pre-ordered school supplies service.

The Summer Movies project is a group of 8 either G or PG movies for only \$12.50 and is open to any age. The normal ticket price is \$2.50 for each movie. Movies are shown each week from June 2 to July 23 at 1:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The Volleyball Camp will be held at the Bernie White Gym in Brookville from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on August 10

## BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

April 20 Board Meeting Report

John Schrock was the only board member absent. Action taken was on a 6-0 vote unless noted otherwise.

7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

### AUDIENCE WITH THE BOARD

Bob Holgerson shared some thoughts on the preliminary drawings for the addition/remodeling at the elementary school.

Tom Omli encouraged the board to not be restrained by the current drawing and that they have been empowered to do it right.

## REPORTS

### BOE – None

Mr. Alexander – His report included: calendar is full of activities taking place; the school play will be held this Friday and Saturday; the band competed at the state competition last week and will be traveling to Worlds of Fun on May 1 & 2 for a competition; the Senior Trip meeting will be April 29; state assessments are continuing with only the science portion left to complete; MAP testing will begin soon; Senior English projects/presentations are taking place; and Mr. Laas is meeting with students/parents on schedules for next year.

Mrs. Sprinkle – Her report included: state assessments are completed and MAP assessments have started; shared preliminary state assessment results that indicate all grades tested (grades 3-6) in both reading and math exceeded the benchmark set by the state; Kindergarten Roundup is Wednesday, April 22, and we presently know of 32 kindergarten students for next year; Pennies for Patients raised \$302; Jump Rope for Heart/Hoops for Heart raised \$8,157.62; reviewed other spring activities that are on the calendar and noted that the DARE graduation will take place on May 15 at 1:00.

Mr. Minneman – His report included: asking the board who would be attending/participating in both the HS Graduation and the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion exercises; the spring KASB Regional Meeting is in Salina on April 30; although the technician was here last week to work on the wind generator it still is not working; the Saline County Sheriff's Office is applying for a 50% matching grant to help with the installation of security cameras at the MS/HS; update on the state's financial picture; read two thank you notes; and shared a list of meetings out-of-the-district he will be attending before the next meeting.

### BUSINESS

**Early Graduation Request**—Grace Boyd's request for early graduation next year was approved.

**Facilities**—Information from Steve Shogren (bond counsel) and Jeff Gillam (architect) was shared. It was the consensus of the board that the Site-Council/Parent/Patron Facilities Committee get back together to make any recommendations for change in the original conceptual plans.

**New Hire**—Pamela Dodd was hired as the new Kindergarten teacher.

**Certified Contracts**—The list of Certified Staff recommendations for next year was approved. The list included ALL certified staff under contract this year with the exception of Barbara Kern who will be retiring at the end of this year.

**Supplemental Positions**—The list of Supplemental Positions was approved after being amended. All current coaches/sponsors were approved in their same assignment unless they had previously informed us that they did not wish to continue next year. The amending was in dropping Drama from the schedule and replacing it with Forensics.

**MS/HS Principal Interview Dates**—Interviews will take place Tuesday and Thursday (April 21 & 23) evenings and Saturday (April 25) morning. We have had 52 applications for the position.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, May 11, 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.

## MAY CPTA MEETING

The May CPTA meeting is Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the ESE music room. It will be the last meeting of the school year. We will be discussing calendar options for next year and finishing up this year's activities. There will be free babysitting for children 6<sup>th</sup> grade and younger, refreshments, and a door prize drawing.

## CPTA/BURGER KING NIGHT

We want to thank everyone who came out to support ESE at the Burger King Fundraising Night. Everyone enjoyed viewing the great art the students created during the year. The coloring contest winners were: 1F-Erin Lange, 1T-Sydney Hynes, 2P-Joel Came, 2W-Zaine White, 3P-Morgan Linenberger, 3H-Malik Myers, 4M-Emily Oberle, 4S-Milah Linenberger, 5P-Noah Bradley, 5S-Tyler Short, 6W-Evan Morrical, 6M-Darby Wikoff. We also want to thank the staff at Burger King (by Wal-Mart) for their hard work. We raised over \$200 for school improvement projects. Great job everyone!

## DOES BULLYING EXIST AT ELL-SALINE?

The Ell-Saline high school and middle school student body and staff completed a bullying questionnaire early in fall 2008 in order to establish a baseline for educational efforts. The survey results indicate we have work to complete to create the bully free environment we want at our school. About fifty percent of students felt it is okay to bully students they do not like. Forty-four percent of students are picked on and the same percentage said teachers did little or nothing about bullies. Twenty percent of students had things taken or damaged while seventeen percent of students admit they are bullies. Twelve percent of girls report they have received comments about their race or been called mean names. Around ten percent of students dislike school and admit they do not have good friends.

The questionnaire results led to bully prevention educational sessions each Wednesday throughout the spring semester. Randy J. Wiler, the Ell-Saline bully prevention advisor said, "It may take a village to raise a child. . . but a child who bullies can raze the village!" A few training topics have included basic definitions, school rules, types of bullying, mitigation techniques, distinguishing between horseplay/fighting or tattling/reporting behaviors, and a continuum of violence.

The staff has emphasized the importance of reporting incidents to both an adult at school and at home. Students have the opportunity to drop an anonymous note for the school administrator in a publicly accessible, locked mailbox. Students were encouraged to support the victim and to use the Kansas School Violence hotline (1.877.626.8203) as needed. The Salina Central Dispatch of the Kansas Highway Patrol notifies appropriate local law enforcement agencies and the school superintendent to respond to hotline calls. The continued success of Ell-Saline schools remains in the

balance since bully prevention is basically a question of human rights. A healthy and safe learning environment where everyone belongs and everyone keeps their focus on education tasks is the ultimate goal.

## AFTER PROM

The 2009 Ell-Saline After Prom was held April 18th from midnight to 3:00 a.m. at the All-Star Lanes in Salina. There were 80 young adults in attendance. The time was spent hanging out with friends, bowling, eating pizza, and being awarded prize and cash drawings through out the night. A special thank you goes out to Officer Chad Flesher for helping to supervise and keep things safe for the kids. The chaperones in attendance who helped set-up, monitor, work the stations, and clean up need to be thanked. They were Joe and Lisa Armstrong, Margaret and Rick Shaver, John and Leslie Johnson, Paul and Courtney Schneider, Dianne and John Schulz, Robin Nachbar, Jeannie Beaugh, Susan Reiff, and Shondra Abker. There always seems to be one or two people who go above and beyond as far as making sure the letters get out to businesses, donations are collected and deposited in the bank, spreadsheets are updated, meetings are organized, etc. Jeannie Beaugh and Lisa Armstrong were the ones who really kept things together to make it a successful, safe, and fun night for the kids.

Thank you Jeannie and Lisa.

Submitted by Margaret Shaver

## COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR CHILD

Good communications between you and your child can create a healthy atmosphere at home as well as at school.

Make it a habit of talking *with* your child, not *at* him/her. It is beneficial to establish an atmosphere in which your child feels free to ask questions. One must remember to take time to answer the questions immediately or arrange to pursue the subject at a later time. A reply of "I don't have time" won't do it!

When your child talks to you take the time to listen. Demonstrate an interest in what your child is saying. Respecting what your child says will build his/her self-concept. To succeed in life, one must have a good self-concept.

Let your lifestyle communicate the value you place on learning. Here are a few ways to do this:

1. Let your child see you reading a variety of materials at home.
2. Discuss what you and your child are reading. If your child is young, take some time to read to him/her.
3. Provide a variety of magazines, newspapers, and books easily available to the whole family.
4. Set aside a quiet time each day for the family to get together and read as a family. Seeing parents reading is the best encouragement one can provide. While reading, turn off the TV!
5. Demonstrate an interest in what your child is studying at school. Encourage him/her to share what he/she is learning with you. Take a sincere interest in the achievements of your child. Don't ask "What did you do in school today?" unless you are sincere.

Communication is the key word. The more you can communicate with your children, the better they will feel about themselves. In turn, this will lead to better success in school, and in later life.

## 2010 AFTER PROM MEETING

4-20-2009

In attendance; Susan Rieff, Lisa Armstrong, Margaret Shaver, Courtney Clifford, Lisa Eastep, Robin Nachbar, Jeannie Beaugh

\*Thank you to the 2009 committee for all their hard work on making After Prom 2009 a success. And thank you to Mr. Dodd and his IHT class for all their help with the addresses.

\*Lisa handed over the reins to Jeannie to head up next years After Prom.

Susan, Courtney, Lisa and Robin all agreed and stated that they would help out.

\*Labeled and stuffed envelopes to area merchants and organizations thanking them for their contributions.

\*Jeannie casually polled the students during lunch today for suggestions on how After Prom could be improved and some suggestions were:

Get the Money Machine back.

Have drawing at the end of the night.

Have a Wii available.

Do the Wheel of fortune game.

Quarters were worthless for the arcade games that they had at the bowling alley.

Have other games available like cards, twister, apples to apples, etc.

Let the Seniors go first on the prizes.

Different prizes...more GPS's and IPOD's.

More prizes for the guests.

Keep After Prom at the Bowling Alley

Have After Prom at Jumpin Joes.

\*The 2009 Committee noticed that the Chamber of Commerce Gift Certificates went over well.

\*Discussed Fundraising options:

Courtney will check on Bi-Center concessions.

Lisa will check on doing a slow pitch tournament.

Lisa will check on having a garage sale in September.

Robin will check with Nights of Columbus for their Casino Night.

\*There was some discussion of trying to change Prom night to not coincide with South and Central and Sacred Heart's so as to possibly get the Masonic Temple. She will check with Mr. Weis and Mr. Minneman about this.

\*Jeannie will finish up the mailing, purchase an address stamp to be used on future mailings, attempt to get the addresses into Access so we can get them in alphabetical order, get a thank you into the Neighbors section as well as the ECHO and change the checking account signatures over to Susan Reiff and Jeannie Beaugh.

\*We will try to set up a meeting this summer to discuss the fundraising ideas.

Jeannie will email everyone she has an email address to about it. If there are others that want to be informed, please get their email addresses to her at [jbeaugh@ellsaline.org](mailto:jbeaugh@ellsaline.org)

Also if anyone else has any suggestions, please let us know.

\*The next scheduled meeting on the school calendar will be August 17, 2009 at 6:30 at ESHS cafeteria.

Submitted by Jennie Beaugh

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

We are now very close to touching "home plate" for this school year. By the time you receive this we will have less than 3-weeks left until the bases have been rounded, everyone is back in the dugout and school is over for the 2008-2009 school year. It seems like such a short time ago that we were just stepping into the batter's box. This has truly been an enjoyable, positive, successful year for students, staff and patrons alike.

In the next couple of weeks we have the opportunity to look back over the students' accomplishments of this year with the various awards and performance nights. For our seniors we will get to take part not only in recognizing their accomplishments of this year at the Awards Night on May 7 but also to share in their celebration of the past thirteen years with their graduation exercises on May 9. For our 8<sup>th</sup> graders we will get to hear of their accomplishments of this year and to challenge them to not only continue that, but rather to build on it, during their next four years in high school. I encourage each of you to attend as many of these events as you can to support our students.

Along with looking back over the past years, we are also looking forward to next year as kindergarten round-up and enrollment have taken place. Our preliminary count of kindergartners for next year is 33 which is one of the larger preliminary enrollments we have had in recent years. We have been interviewing candidates, hiring new staff members and beginning to order necessary supplies. We are balancing next year's needs between this, and next year's, budgets.

As we do those things this year, it is with a great deal of uncertainty about next year's budget. The revenue projections of two weeks ago for the State of Kansas indicate a major shortfall in funds not only for the remainder of this fiscal year but also for next year. At the time I am writing this it is unknown just how much K-12 education funding will be reduced. What we do know, though, is that it will be reduced. Thanks to our Board of Education having made solid budget decisions in past years it appears we will be able to weather the reduction without a loss of personnel or programs. We will continue to provide our students with a solid education!

As the legislature is back in Topeka finishing its work for the year, it remains important for all of us to monitor how any legislation will negatively impact us and to contact our legislators to let them know our concerns. If you would like more specific information on how any legislation might impact us, please let me know and I'll get it to you. For the future of our district, it continues to be important for our voices to be heard.

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.

## **THANK YOU**

Thank you to everyone who helped with all of the prom activities. This year's prom was a great success because of all of the help we got from parents and faculty. A special thanks goes out to the parents who helped us with the valet parking. The After-Prom Committee did a wonderful job organizing the after-prom as well. We thank you all for your generosity and your contributions.

Junior Class Prom Committee

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

May 1 FHSU Tech Fair  
May 1 10:00 HS Track @ Beloit  
May 1-2 Band Trip to Worlds of Fun  
May 2-6 Senior Trip  
May 3-5 FFA CDE @ KSU  
May 4 6:30 CPTA Meeting at Ell-Saline Elementary  
May 5 9:00 MS Track @ Beloit (St. John's)  
May 5 3:00 HS Track @ Tescott  
May 5 6:00 ESIC Meeting at Ell-Saline Elementary  
May 6 9:00 HOA Industrial Arts @ Sedgwick  
May 7 7:00 HS Awards Night  
May 8 8:30 Graduation Rehearsal  
May 8 Gr. 3-6 RR Celebration at The City  
May 8 ACT Registration Deadline  
May 8 3:00 HS Track @ Lincoln  
May 9 1:30 HS Graduation  
May 10 Mother's Day  
May 11 4:00 HOA Fr/Soph Track @ Remington  
May 11 7:00 BOE Meeting at Ell-Saline District Office  
May 12 10:30 MS Track @ Moundridge  
May 12 6:30-8:30 Gr. 1-2 Game Night  
May 15 1:00 DARE Graduation  
May 15 3:00 HOA Track @ Newton (Bethel College)  
May 15 4:00 SB/BSB @ Ell-Saline (Wilson)  
May 16 Armed Forces Day  
May 18 SB Regional @ Galva  
May 18 BSB Regional @ Wilson  
May 18 10:45 All Kindergarteners  
May 18 11:15 All School Picnic  
May 18 11:45 Kindergarten Recognition

May 18 1:00 Elementary Play Day  
May 18 7:00 MS Awards Night  
May 19 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL—11:00 Dismissal  
May 19 No Kindergarten  
May 19 9:00 Elementary Pep Rally  
May 19 BSB Regional @ Wilson  
May 20 Teacher Workday  
May 20 SB Regional @ Galva  
May 21 Teacher In-Service  
May 22 Teacher Workday  
May 22 Last Day for Teachers  
May 22 Track Regional @ Moundridge  
May 25 Memorial Day—Observed  
May 27-29 State FFA Convention  
May 29-30 State BSB/SB/Track  
May 30 Memorial Day

## 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](http://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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