



# THE ELL-SALINE ECHO

September 2009

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

## 2009-2010 BUDGET UPDATE

At the Budget Hearing on August 10 the Board of Education adopted the budget for 2009-2010. This year's budget is filled with a mix of good news and bad news. Good news is that our enrollment is going to be up. The budget was built on an increase of 13 students and it looks like we might be up a few more than that. Bad news is that we received only \$4,218 Base State Aid Per Pupil (BSAPP) whereas last year after BSAPP cuts during the year we received \$4,400. Last year started with a BSAPP of \$4,433 so we are beginning this year with a BSAPP reduction of \$215 from the beginning of last year. Good news is that our Assessed Valuation is up approximately \$500,000. **Bad news is that even with both increased enrollment and increased Assessed Valuation our combined General Fund and Local Option Budget (LOB) is still \$165,000 less than it was last year.** Good news is that the federal America Recovery and Restoration (ARRA) stabilization funds kept our budget from being approximately \$330,000 less. Bad news is that those ARRA funds are good for only this year and next. Good news is that for the last few years we have been able to transfer money to the next year in preparation for these tight budget times. Bad news is that we won't be able to transfer as much at the end of this year because we are starting with \$165,000 less. Good news is that because of being able to transfer money these past years we did not have to reduce any programs or staff members this year. Bad news is that this is likely to be as good of a budget year as it's going to be for several years.

Overall, the mill levy increased by 9.476 mills to a total mill levy of 55.338 mills. This was possible even with the new bond issue requiring 10.6 mills which is what was presented during the election campaign. However, last year there was still a .995 mill levy on the past project which rolled off this year. Therefore, the Bond & Interest mill levy increased by only 9.605 mills. Also, because of the increased assessed valuation the LOB levy was able to be reduced by .150 mills and still generate the same total dollars. The Capital Outlay mill levy increased by .021 mills but when the final assessed valuation is determined that may go down.

To help stay within the budget some of the expense reductions that will be put in place are:

- √ Delay purchases of some textbooks, athletic uniforms, technology, supplies, etc.
- √ Reduce utility costs by raising/lowering thermostat settings
- √ We have one less kindergarten bus route than we had the last couple of years
- √ Reduce in-service/workshop possibilities where possible
- √ Reduce activity transportation costs where possible

## SEPTEMBER ECHO CPTA ARTICLES

### September CPTA Meeting

The next CPTA meeting will be held on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 in the ESE music room. Many upcoming events will be discussed. We will have refreshments, free babysitting for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and younger, and a door prize drawing. We hope to see you there!

### September Prairie Land Food Info

We have partnered with Prairie Land Food to provide nutritious food packages at a low cost to help stretch food dollars at home and promote volunteerism in our community. Here is how the program works:

View the September Menu (on the school webpages, under CPTA) and decide if you would like to order a Prairie Pak. Each Prairie Pak includes 6 different meat items and 6-8 different fruit & vegetable items and costs \$24 plus 2 hours of volunteer service. The volunteer service can be performed by any member of a household and are reported on a receipt and turned in each month when food orders are picked up. Volunteer hours are on the honor system.

Once you have purchased a Prairie Pak, you are eligible to purchase the meat only package, for \$13 plus 1 additional volunteer hour, and the fruit/veggie pack, for \$11 plus 1 additional volunteer hour. They also have 3 specials each month that change.

Orders for September must be received with payment by September 14th. Check, cash, and food stamps are accepted. You can contact Darcy Bradley-283-4252, Kim Parks-825-5394, Darci Ditto-283-4248, Jana Winter-225-6711, or Elaine Spellman-827-4349 to place an order or you can order online at [www.prairielandfood.com](http://www.prairielandfood.com) and pay by check or debit card.

So you have a Prairie Pak ordered, now what? On Saturday, September 26th, you must come to the Ell-Saline Elementary School and pick up your food from 9:00 am to 10:00 am. Please bring a box, laundry basket, or cooler to take food items home in. Anyone can pick up your food, as long as they have your yellow receipt. At pickup, you can also order for the next month. You can contact any of the people listed above with additional questions.

Many volunteers are needed to make this program available in our district. Please consider donating your time to this great program!

### Classroom Party Sign-Ups

If you missed classroom party sign-ups for Halloween, Christmas, and Valentine's Day at Back to School Night, they will be available at fall Parent-Teacher Conferences. Once all

the spots are filled, we will have them posted on the school website, under CPTA.

### Box Tops for Education

The ESE CPTA is again saving Box Tops, Campbell's Soup Labels, and Nestle Pure Life Water Bottle Labels. All of these cutting and saving efforts provide the elementary students with everything from playground equipment to library books! These items can be sent to the elementary building with students or given to Shirl Cole at the middle/high schools. If you have any questions, please contact Darci Ditto at 283-4248.

### CPTA Web-Pages

Ell-Saline has a terrific web-site, [www.ellsaline.org](http://www.ellsaline.org). Check out the CPTA pages for great information during the year. New items are posted frequently, so be sure to check the pages often for updates!

### Carnival is Out of This World!

On Saturday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, come out and have fun with games, raffles, auction, food, and friends. There are many games for the whole family to play from 3:30-5:30. Pick up a stamp card at the door and earn stamps by playing some of the games. The stamps can be turned into treasures at the 'General Store', which is open from 4:00-6:00. Wristbands or game tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. The auction will begin at 6:00, followed by the raffle. Concessions will be available from 3:30-6:00. Many volunteers are needed to make this a fun event for everyone. If you are interested in helping, please contact Darcy Bradley at 819-4091.

### CPTA Volleyball Camp Wrap-Up

We had an amazing turn out this year for the CPTA Volleyball Camp. During August 10<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>, the girls learned many ways to improve their skills on the volleyball court. Thanks to all who helped and participated. Way to go!!



### CPTA Purchases Elementary Marquee

If you have been by the elementary building recently, you might have noticed the new marquee out front. We are very excited to have this available for the new school year to post important dates and times of events. Thanks to everyone who has donated their time and money to past CPTA projects so that this could become a reality. We would also like to thank Jeremy and Angela Hopkins, TriMark Signworks, for all their hard work building and installing it. Great job!

## **SUGGESTED HOME ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR CHILD**

Here are some suggested activities that you can do with your child at home. These activities can be done on weekends, summer days, vacation days, or at any other time your child wants to do something different.

1. Keep a list of groceries you want to buy at the supermarket. Print a meal menu for each day of the week. Ask your child to help with the menu and the shopping for the ingredients.
2. Write down telephone or other messages. Have the child read the messages and learn new words. Encourage him/her to write down messages for you.
3. Look at pictures in a storybook and ask your child what he/she thinks is happening. Then let your child read the story (or you read it to him/her) and compare what he/she thought was happening to the actual story.
4. Ask your child to find all the things in a room starting with a certain letter of the alphabet.
5. Teach your child (boy or girl) to read and follow a recipe.
6. Using the telephone book is a good idea. Have your child write down the names of his/her friends and relatives, and record their telephone numbers and addresses for a personal directory.
7. After your child reads a book, have him/her read orally to you a favorite chapter, or a funny part, a scary part, etc.
8. Teach your child his/her full name, address, phone number, and date of birth, including the year.
9. Read with your child as you take a walk or drive—street signs, store signs, billboards, etc.
10. Cut out pictures of squares, triangles, and circles. Let your child find household items with similar shapes.
11. Find words in the newspaper to cut out and make sentences.
12. Make play money (or use real money) and practice making change.

## **INTERNET TERM DEFINITIONS**

**Here are MY basic definitions  
by Brian Bell  
Pop-Up / Pop-Under Ads**

A Pop-Up is a window that appears on top of (over) the internet browser or program window. A Pop-Under-Ad is one that is behind or in back of the internet browser. These windows usually contain advertisements and can capture e-mail and cookie information, but clicking on Pop-Ups or Pop-Under can install Malware.

### **Cookies**

Cookies are small files placed on your computer by websites and now e-mail that identify you and your computer for the purpose of tracking or identifying your internet / e-mail habits. Cookies can make your internet browsing easier and faster as

good websites will remember who you are and show information that interests you. However, cookies can be used by sites that do not always have the best of intentions.

### Spam

Spam is unwanted or unsolicited e-mail. But defining what is unwanted, can be unique to each person or each e-mail account. For example when vendors send me e-mail announcements to my work e-mail, I do not consider that Spam. But, if those same e-mails went to my personal e-mail account I would consider those e-mails as Spam. Spam can also be nearly identical e-mails sent to numerous recipients.

### Phishing

Phishing refers to baits (e-mails or instant messages) used to "catch" personal financial information. Usually the authentic looking e-mail or instant message (from e-bay, your bank, or credit card) will redirect you to another authentic looking website where you can enter your username, password, account or credit card numbers. This data will then be used to make purchases or withdraws in your name.

### Malware

Malware is unwanted software, including but not limited to computer viruses, worms, trojan horses, spyware, dishonest adware and other malicious, hostile, and annoying software.

### Virus

Computer Virus is an unwanted program that can copy itself and infect other computers usually with the intent to harm, destroy, or damage files or other programs. A virus uses a host to move between computers such as a floppy disk, CD, DVD, USB drive, e-mail or file.

### Worm

A Worm is a program that exploits vulnerabilities to spread to other computers without a host.

### Trojan Horse

Trojan Horse is a program with a hidden agenda but appears harmless. Like a screen saver that secretly allows others remote access to your computer and information on your computer. Or a program that changes your desktop pictures that secretly uses your computer to send spam. Another is a game downloaded from the internet that disables security software and settings.

### Adware

adware (yes in lower case) is free software that is supported by advertisements. adware typically requires an active internet connection to run and sends your personal information to third parties, without your knowledge. Below is a short list of common adware:

123 Messenger	Cydoor
Limewire	180SearchAssistant
Direct Revenue	Messenger Plus! Live
888bar	DivX
RealPlayer	Adssite Toolbar
DollarRevenue	Smiley Central
AOL Instant Messenger	ErrorSafe
Viewpoint Media Player	Antivirus 200 Family
Evernote	VirusProtectPro
Bearshare	Ezula
WeatherBug	Bonzi Buddy
FaceGame.exe	WhenU
BlockChecker	Gamespy
WinAce	Burn4Free
Gamevance	WinFixer

ClipGenie  
Winzix  
Kazaa

Gator  
Comet Cursor  
Zango Toolbar

### Spyware

Spyware is basically adware that is installed on the computer with out the user's consent. Spyware has been known to change internet settings, i.e., home page, security settings, search options, cause pop-ups and install other unwanted software.

Next month's article topic Prevention and Preventive Maintenance

## AG SCIENCE

As the Ell-Saline Agriculture Science instructor, I wanted to provide a community service project for our school district and its patrons. I have decided to write a monthly column about items that may concern many of us or we may just want more information on. I would like to start out and provide information on tomatoes in our first column.

Tomatoes are one of the most popular vegetables planted in the United States. The tomato was first domesticated in Mexico and introduced to the European Continent during the Middle sixteenth century. The tomato is a member of the night shade family as are eggplants and potatoes.

Most Kansas don't realize that tomatoes are a herbaceous perennial, which means that they will live for more than one year. In Kansas our cold weather kills the tomato plant. They are not cold weather (below 32°F) tolerant.

Tomatoes like warm weather. Cool temperature, below 50°F, delays germination, inhibits vegetative development, reduces fruit set, and impairs fruit ripening. A temperature above 95°F reduces fruit set and inhibits development of normal fruit colors.

The average American consumes about 91 pounds of tomatoes and tomato products. A medium size tomato has about 25 calories and is a great source of vitamin C and vitamin A.

Tomatoes are divided into several categories; the first categories are seen often in seed catalogs. Those items being determinate and indeterminate; determinate tomatoes are bush tomatoes and they produce most of their fruit at one time. They are good for canning activities or large all at once sales, because you get large quantities at once. Indeterminate are vining, they produce a crop until the first fall frost. They give you tomatoes throughout the season.

We also divide tomatoes into other categories. Beefstock are large "kidney bean" shape tomatoes that are used for slicing. Many weigh close to one pound. Canning tomatoes are medium size being round and weigh 8 to 12 ounces. Plum tomatoes are used for sauce or paste, and are oblong. Cherry tomatoes are used for salads, and tend to be sweeter.

There are over 7500 different tomato varieties grown. Heirloom tomatoes usually have better flavor while hybrids have more production and disease resistance.

Next month I would like to talk about tomato problems, and what varieties I like.

Lee Weis  
Ell-Saline Agriculture Science Instructor

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Sept. 1 4:00 HS VB Hope/Goessel/Elyria Christian @ ES  
Sept. 1 6:00 ESIC Meeting at Ell-Saline Elementary  
Sept. 2 6:00 MS/HS Site Council Meeting  
Sept. 3 4:30 Cross-Country @ Lincoln  
Sept. 3 4:30 MS VB Bennington @ ES  
Sept. 3 6:00 MS FB Bennington @ ES  
Sept. 4 7:00 HS FB Peabody-Burns @ ES (District Staff Recognition Night)  
Sept. 7 NO SCHOOL—Labor Day  
Sept. 8 4:00 HS VB @ Little River (Berean/Remington)  
Sept. 10 4:30 MS VB @ Inman  
Sept. 10 6:00 MS FB @ Inman  
Sept. 11 7:00 HS FB @ Moundridge  
Sept. 12 8:00 HS VB @ Sylvan Grove  
Sept. 14 MS/HS @ State Fair  
Sept. 14 6:00 HS JV FB Moundridge @ ES  
Sept. 14 7:00 BOE Meeting at Ell-Saline District Office  
Sept. 15 4:00 HS VB @ Peabody-Burns (Bennington)  
Sept. 15 6:30-8:00 Ell-Saline Elementary Book Fair  
Sept. 16 FFA @ Belleville  
Sept. 17 4:30 MS VB @ Sedgwick  
Sept. 17 6:00 MS FB @ Sedgwick  
Sept. 18 7:00 HS FB @ Bennington  
Sept. 19 9:00 HS VB @ Tescott

Sept. 21 6:00 HS JV FB Bennington @ ES  
Sept. 21 6:30 After Prom Meeting at Ell-Saline High School  
Sept. 21 6:30 CPTA Meeting at Ell-Saline Elementary  
Sept. 22 4:00 HS VB Goessel/Moundridge @ ES  
Sept. 23 MS/HS Fall Pictures  
Sept. 23 Life Touch—Seniors  
Sept. 23 4:15-8:15 Parent/Teacher Conferences  
Sept. 24 NO SCHOOL  
Sept. 24 7:00-7:30 Parent/Teacher Conferences  
Sept. 25 NO SCHOOL  
Sept. 25 ACT Registration Deadline  
Sept. 25 7:00 HS FB Sedgwick @ ES (Elementary Sports Night/Little Cheerleaders Night)  
Sept. 26 TBA MS VB Tourney @ Solomon  
Sept. 26 9:00 HS JV VB @ Inman  
Sept. 28 NO SCHOOL—Teacher In-Service  
Sept. 28 6:00 HS JVFB @ Sedgwick  
Sept. 29 FFA @ Concordia  
Sept. 29 4:00 HS VB @ Sedgwick (Trinity Catholic)  
Sept. 30 HOA Leadership @ HCC  
Oct. 1 Elementary Fall Pictures  
Oct. 1 6:00 MS FB Solomon @ ES  
Oct. 2 7:00 HS FB Trinity Catholic @ ES (Homecoming)  
Oct. 3 3:30-7:00 CPTA Carnival at Ell-Saline Elementary  
Oct. 3 Homecoming Dance

### 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 the District Office (785-225-6813) and let us 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). If you prefer to have it e-mailed to you, please let us know your e-mail address and we can send it to you that way.

Thank you.

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