

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Welcome to 2012! I hope that over the holidays you had time to enjoy family and friends. Travel conditions during the holiday season again this year were very good which should have made it easy for everyone to make it to their destinations. Since then we've had a few bitter cold days and a little moisture but even that didn't cause any serious travel concerns. In a few weeks spring will be here and I'm looking forward to the warmer, clearer weather conditions that spring usually brings.

Along with the certainty of winter weather this time of year is the annual reconvening of the state legislature. In his State of the State address, Governor Brownback touched on many ambitious issues (tax structure, school funding formula, College and Career Ready program, KPERS, Medicaid, redistricting, etc.) that will make this a very full, busy legislative session. With the legislative session beginning it will be important that we all stay up to speed with bills that might have a potential negative impact on us as a district and on us as individual citizens. Two of the major areas will be the school funding formula and the tax structure. The Governor and the Democrats have each presented a new school funding formula. The Governor's 138 page bill titled *Excellence in Education Act* contains many more facets of education than just finance. Many details of this bill are still not definite and it will be worth keeping our eye on and it will take a long time for it to work its way through the legislative process. The bill presented by the Democrats is basically the same formula as is presently in place and calls for restoring over the next four years the cuts in state funding that have taken place in the past several years. As for the tax structure, the Governor wants to reduce, or eliminate, state income taxes. As an individual that might be welcomed in our paycheck but as an individual that might have a negative impact on us in filing our tax return as in order to finance the loss of income tax revenue from our paycheck he is also proposing eliminating some of the deductions that have been significant when we file our returns. Therefore, we would likely end up paying more when we file our income tax returns. Also, without the source of revenue to the state because of that and other tax reductions, some services will have to be cut in order to still meet budget. Which ones those might be is anybody's guess. With both of these issues, as the old saying goes "the devil is in the details".

If you are concerned about the future of our schools, public education in general, or any of the other quality of life programs that are funded by the State of Kansas, I encourage you to contact your legislators and express your concern to them. We, as school administrators and board members have been doing so for several years and our comments often fall on deaf ears. The biggest impact comes when they hear from you the parents, patrons, constituents, voters. Again, I encourage you to contact them! For the future of our state, it is important.

On a positive note, the state continues to receive more tax revenue than was projected which is a good indication that we will not have our budget reduced during the year. However, because of the increase in the total student enrollment and in the number of students eligible for free/reduced lunches, the legislature will need to appropriate an additional roughly \$25 million to school finance for there not to be a reduction.

Fortunately for our district and community our school board and administration have exercised fiscal responsibility in past years that has prepared us for times such as these. Our school board and administrators feel strongly that education comes first. Any resource reallocation that might occur will have that in mind. The responsibility of educating the youth of our community is something that your school board, administration and faculty take seriously. As we continue to work through these difficult economic times we will strive to continue providing 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 Ell-Saline USD 307 school district. You can be assured that your children continue to receive a quality education.

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

Our school board members are just ordinary citizens – your friends and neighbors – with extraordinary dedication to our community and our children. They provide a vital service in our community. Public education is the backbone of American society, and local school boards are deeply rooted in US tradition. In fact, in 1966 the people of Kansas amended our state's constitution to specifically call for local public schools that are "maintained, developed and operated by locally elected boards."

Our Board of Education establishes a vision for the education program, maintains the structure to achieve that vision, and provides accountability to the community. Each member is a strong advocate for continuous improvement in student learning. They study, discuss and research so that they can make informed decisions on countless complex issues.

The job of a school board member is tough, the hours long and the thanks few and far between. Too often we forget about the personal sacrifices school board members make. They spend hours in meetings and on committees, advocating for our schools with elected politicians by speaking out against budget cuts or pushing for policy and program reforms.

The month of January marks the annual observance of School Board Recognition Month. This is a time to show our appreciation and begin to better understand how local boards work together to prepare today's students to be tomorrow's leaders. In January, join with others from throughout our district and state to salute the men and women who provide grassroots governance of our public schools.

Our school board members are: President Jeff Parker (4 years); Anita Bird (1 year); Jamie Bradley (6 years); John Fouard (new this year); Cheryl Higgins (5 years); Geena Kejr (10 years); and Marty Kramer (6 years). When you see one of these individuals, take a moment to thank them for the job they do and for the personal sacrifices they make in serving on the Board of Education of your school district.

February 2012



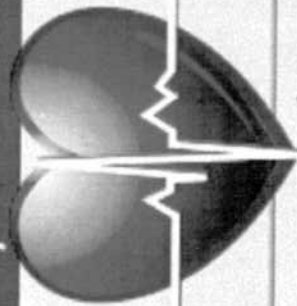
Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday



6 Rib on a Bun
Oven Fries
Broccoli Florets
Baked Beans
Orange Slices
Milk Choice

7 Chili & Tortilla Chips
Celery & Cucumbers
Apple Sauce
Cinnamon Roll
Milk Choice

8 French Toast
Sliced Ham
Warm Spicy Apples
Tri Tater
Baby Carrots
Milk Choice

9 NO SCHOOL

3 Wear RED Day!
Whole Grain Spaghetti
with Meat Sauce
Tossed Salad w/Spinach
Diced Peaches
Whole Grain Garlic Bread
Milk Choice

10 Ell-Saline Lunches
Daily feature many
Heart Healthy items.
Fresh Fruits and Veggies.
Whole Grains
And Low fat Proteins.
NO SCHOOL

13 Chicken Patty
Potatoes & Gravy
Broccoli Florets
Orange Slices
Roll & Jelly
Milk Choice

14 Mac & Cheese
Little Smokies
Sweet Peas
Banana
WW Bread Stick
Milk Choice

15 Beef Fiestada Pizza
Tortilla Chips & Salsa
Refried Beans
Apple Quarters
Pudding, Milk Choice

16 Ham & Cheese Sub
Lettuce & Tomato Slices
Tater Tots
Baby Carrots
Orange Slices
Milk Choice

17 Lasagna
Salad w/Fresh Spinach
Diced Peaches
Garlic Bread
Chocolate Chip Cookie Bar
Milk Choice

20 Cheese Burger
Lettuce & Tomato Slices
Lays Chips, Baby Carrots
Orange Slices
Milk Choice

21 Bean & Beef Burrito
Lettuce & Salsa
Sweet Corn
Sliced Pears
Banana Cake
Milk Choice

22 Chicken &
Noodles
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Banana
Wheat Roll & Jelly
Milk Choice

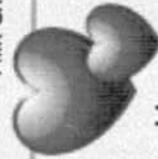
23 Sausage Pizza
Salad w/Spinach
Pineapple Chunks
Garlic Bread
Graham Snack
Milk Choice

24 Steak Fingers
Oven Fries
Broccoli Florets
Apple Quarters
Bread Sticks
Milk Choice

27 Corn Dog
Baked Beans
Fresh Broccoli
Orange Half
Garlic Bread
Milk Choice

28 Tostada
Lettuce & Salsa
Sweet Corn
Crisp Apple Quarters
Bread Stick
Milk Choice

29 Elem-Chicken Strips
M/HS-Teriyaki Chicken
Seasoned Rice
Green Pepper Strips &
Baby Carrots
Pineapple Chunks
Brownie
Milk Choice



Happy
Valentines
Day!

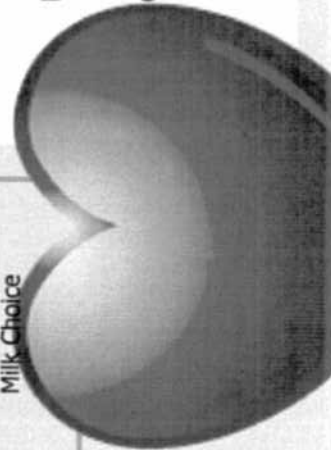
Staying Active

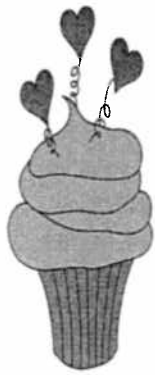
Tips to Keep Your Family Fit
Break it Up: You don't have to do it all at once. Look for opportunities to get moderate or vigorous activity for 10 or 15 minutes several times a day.
Walk the Walk: eat dinner as a family and then go for a walk. If the weather isn't cooperating, take a brisk walk around the mall

UnGlue Yourself- Your kids won't like cutting back on screen time if they see you as the family couch potato. The best way to influence their behavior is to set a good example. As a family pick favorite shows, turn on the TV just for those shows and then turn it off afterwards.

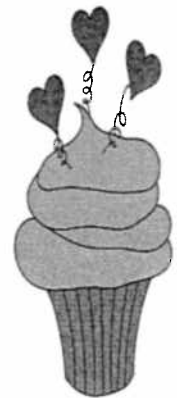
Tackle Chores:
Do housework or
Yard work together

Good Heart Health
Starts At home.





“Friends of Rachel” is
hosting a bake sale to
help the Food Network’s



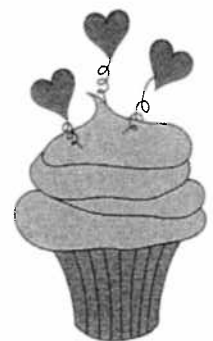
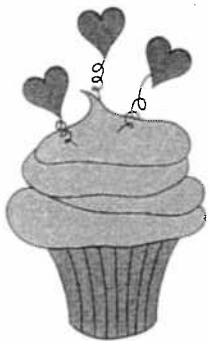
“Share Our Strength - Great American Bake
Sale” - to help feed the hungry of our
country!

Come join us at our Bake Shop!

Tuesday, February 14, 2012, during the home
basketball games that night!

4:15- 8:15PM

Food Items from \$.25 - \$5.00 sold!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR “SWEET” SUPPORT!

January Student of the Month

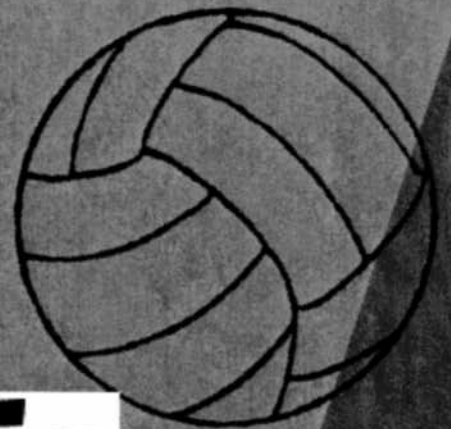


Zach Schuman

The January Student of the Month is sophomore Zach Schuman. He is the son of Richard Schuman and Shawn Andrews. He has two siblings, Garrett and Madison. In school, he participates in Quiz Bowl, Science Olympiad, football manager, baseball, and Forensics. He is also an active member of Relay for Life and at Grace Baptist Church. He enjoys reading, being a ninja, playing music, and watching the Green Bay Packers. In the future, Zach plans on going to Manhattan Christian College to major in Theology.

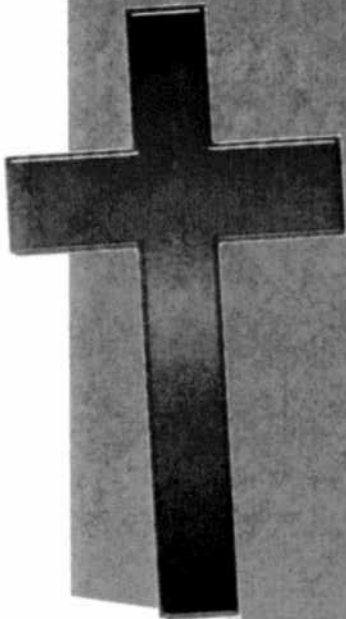


January Student of the Month



Reilly Brin

The January Student of the Month is seventh grader Reilly Brin. She is the daughter of Anthony and Shannon Brin. She has two siblings, Ramsey and Emerson. In school, Reilly participates in volleyball, basketball, cheerleading, track, band, and FCA. Outside of school, she is an active 4-H member. She enjoys going to church and hanging out with her friends and family. After school, she plans on going to K-State University with an undecided major, to play volleyball.





ELL-Saline Parents as Teachers

February is National Children's Dental Health Month- Keep That Winning Smile

Your baby's teeth can start to decay as soon as they appear in the mouth, so it is important to protect them right from the start. The American Dental Association recommends the following:

- Wipe your baby's teeth and gums with a damp washcloth after each feeding. Continue doing this until baby teeth have come through the gums; then begin brushing with a baby-sized toothbrush.
- Never allow your baby to fall asleep with a bottle.
- Avoid filling your child's bottle with sweet liquids such as sugar water, juice or soft drinks.

- If you suspect that your child has any dental problems, make an appointment with the dentist as soon as possible.

Food Facts for Healthy Teeth

Choose healthy foods that are good for your body! Good eating habits formed at an early age continue through out life. Eating foods that stick to the teeth and have a lot of sugar like candy, sweetened cereal, raisins, and fruit roll-ups increase the risk of getting cavities.

Pay attention to:

- **How many** times you eat each day.
- **How long** the food is in

the mouth.

- **How sticky** the food is.

Best Bites!

- Raw fruits and vegetables
- Pizza
- Pretzels
- Bagels or pita bread
- Whole grain crackers
- Meat and cheese slices
- Yogurt, applesauce or fruit cups
- Milk-low fat or skim for children over 2 years
- Unsweetened fruit or vegetable juice
- Use your judgment on what your child is able to chew

Adapted and printed with permission from the Nevada State Health Division

Smoky Hill Education Service Center

February 2012

Jenny Smith
Coordinator/Parent Educator
jrsmith@smokyhill.org
(785)577-4270

January-February Birthdays!!!

- ☺ Lauren January 29th
- ☺ Blain January 29th
- ☺ Ryddyk February 11

Welcome to PAT

- Reid
- Eli
- Gracie

Playgroups

- February 3rd & 4th Clothing Swap @ City Hall
- February 6th Story Hour @ School Library 10am
- February 13th Music & Me @ Heartland 6pm
- February 21st Tumbling @ Memorial Hall 10am

Fun Fingerplays



The Brush on Your Teeth

(Tune: "Wheels on the Bus")

The brush on your teeth goes brush, brush, brush;

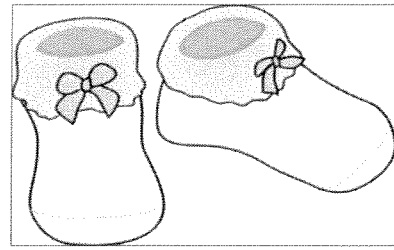
Brush, brush, brush;
Brush, brush, brush.

The brush on your teeth goes brush, brush, brush;
Up, down, and around.

ONE PINK VALENTINE!

(SUNG TO: ONE LITTLE TWO LITTLE INDIANS)
One Pink Two Pink Three Pink Valentines, Four Pink Five Pink Six Pink Valentines, Seven Pink Eight Pink Nine Pink Valentines, Ten Pink Valentines Just For You!

Brookville Children's Clothing Swap



HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

At home, sort and fold CLEAN clothes (clothes you wouldn't mind putting on your family to go out into public) by size into boxes or bags. THEN, when you get to the swap, sort the clothes by size onto marked tables. Next comes the fun part. Go to the tables with the size clothes you are looking for, and take what you need. Free! No strings attached. There are no maximums or minimums. THIS IS FOR INDIVIDUALS ONLY...NO charities, shelters, or resale please.

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?

Look for clothes you might like to bring. Wash, fold, and sort them by size. Then call your friends and family and ask them to do the same...and come alone or as a group to swap! Clothes swapping is more fun when you can share your great finds with friends.

WHAT SIZES?

All sizes of baby, and kids clothing (including coats, shoes and accessories). VERY lightly stained clothes are OK as some people don't mind these for play. However, all clothing MUST BE CLEAN. Fabric and baby accessories are welcome.

"WHAT'S A CLOTHES SWAP?"

This is a totally FREE event, with NO obligation to bring anything or take anything.

It's called a "swap" because so many people bring clothes they no longer need, and take what they DO want.

WHEN & WHERE IS IT?

Friday, Feb 3, (2 pm-6 pm)
Saturday, Feb 4th,(10 am-2 pm)

Swap will be held in
Brookville City Hall

Don't Forget "Swap" is THIS Friday and Saturday!

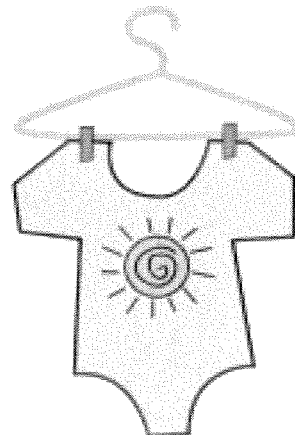
Offered by: Parents
as Teachers

Questions? Contact:

Jenny Smith

(785)577-4270

jrsmith@smokyhill.org





Saline County Sheriff's Office

Glen Kochanowski, Sheriff

251 N. 10th • P.O. Box 1606 • Salina, Kansas 67402-1606 • (785) 826-6500 • FAX (785) 827-1050

Since 2009, the Saline County Sheriff's Office has participated in Operation Medicine Cabinet, a program aimed at both protecting the environment and safeguarding against the improper use and destruction of over-the-counter and legally prescribed medications. A very common, yet environmentally dangerous way to destroy these medications had been to flush them down the toilet. Those medications that are not destroyed tend to be kept at home.

One problem with keeping unused or unwanted medications is that they tend to be kept in the kitchen or bathroom cabinet. Young children often mistake these pills as being 'candy', consuming it with disastrous results. Another problem, and one that is increasing in Saline County, is for these medications to end up at school. Teenage use of prescription drugs found at home is on the rise. Eventually they may find their way to classrooms where they are either given to friends or sold for profit.

Operation Medicine Cabinet tries to change that. By collecting unused or outdated medications, the Saline County Sheriff's Office has ensured the safe disposal of over 1,100 lbs of medicine, including pills, liquids and powders.

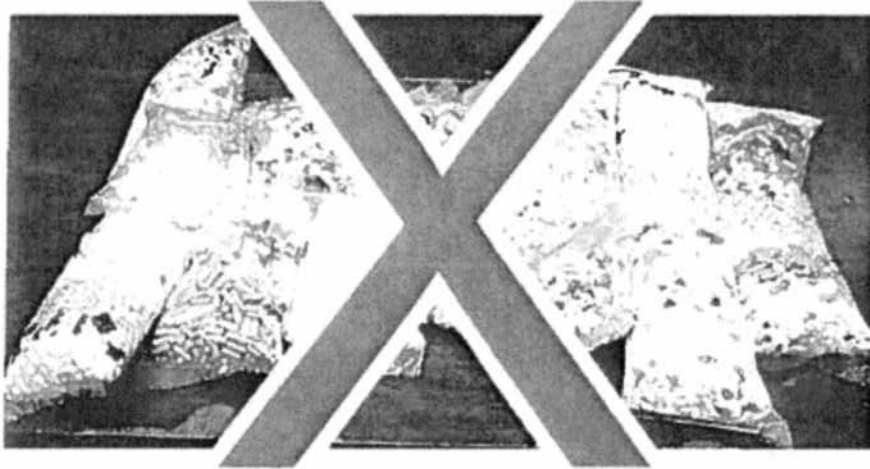
Operation Medicine Cabinet is easy to participate in, simply drop off your unused or outdated prescription medications or drugs to the Saline County Sheriff's Office and we will do the rest. There are no forms to fill out and no questions asked. **Period.** By participating in this program not only are we keeping unwanted and unused medications and drugs out of our landfills and water supply but more importantly you are keeping prescription medications and drugs out of the hands of our children and out of our schools.

For more information on Operation Medicine Cabinet please contact Deputy Scott Trembley at (785) 826-6500. You may also stop by the Saline County Sheriff's Office, 251 N. 10th Street, Salina, anytime Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and drop off your unwanted/unused medication. On Weekend you may drop these items off at the Jail visitor's entrance.

Deputy Trembley can also be reached by e-mail at scott.trembley@saline.org.

OPERATION MEDICINE CABINET

Turn in your unwanted/unused medicine to the Saline County Sheriff's Office between 8 am - 5 pm Monday through Friday excluding holidays at 251 N. 10th St., Salina, Kansas for disposal. Keep your unwanted/unused medicine out of the landfill and the hands of children who may find them in your medicine cabinet and believe it to be candy.



**Let us, your Sheriff's Office, dispose
of unwanted/unused medicines in a
legal safe manner.**



Sheriff Glen Kochanowski