

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Here we are already! It's practically the end of the third 9-weeks! These last couple of months the weather has not allowed us to get nearly as much accomplished as we had planned on and in just three short months school will be out for the summer. Between now and then there is a considerable amount to get caught up and yet to be accomplished for this year as well as planning to be done for next year. Let alone a considerable amount of construction to be completed!

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. The weather created some challenges for everyone and we are thankful for the cooperation of everyone in making adjustments to the schedule.

The weather and loss of school time also created some challenges for us, as well as other districts across the state, as we continue to prepare our students for performing well on the state assessments. The Kansas State Department of Education recognized this challenge and extended the end of the testing window until May 2 to help districts prepare. Here in USD 307 we will delay the beginning of our assessment schedule to compensate for the lost days. However, we will still begin the assessments in the near future. This year's tests include: grades 3 through 8 in both math and reading; grades 4 and 7 in science; grade 9 in History-Government World Focus; grade 10 in reading, math, and Life Science; and grade 11 in reading, OTL math, Physical Science and History-Government US Focus. 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, although tax revenues are improving, does not appear to be headed for full recovery in the near future. Several education bills have been introduced so far this session but very few of them have a positive impact on us or K-12 education in general. Most of the proposed bills have come from the House Education Committee which is dominated by conservatives and they are taking Gov. Brownback's lead on cutting aid. Also, new rules have been installed this year that make it very hard for any proposals that increase aid to be introduced since, for this and next year, there has to be a corresponding decrease in aid elsewhere to offset the proposed increase. This is known as the "pay-as-you-go" rule. The Senate is more favorable toward education and other quality of life services and is not proposing the type of reductions as is the House. Of most concern to me at this time is the House of Representative's HB 2014 supplemental appropriations bill. This is the bill that addresses this year's state budget. My concern with this bill is that it reduces state funding for special education to a level that is below the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) level that is required by federal law in order for Kansas to continue receiving all federal education dollars. Without meeting the MOE level, Kansas would lose between \$26M and \$55M in federal funding not just for next year but for every year from here on. Kansas is not now, nor at any time in the future, able to absorb that amount of reduction in education funding without it having a tremendous negative impact not only on students' education but also on taxpayers as the loss would have to be made up solely from Kansas taxpayers rather than coming from across the United States. The Senate has offered its own version that does include an adequate amount of special education funding to meet the MOE. I encourage you to contact your local legislators and share with them how this would have a negative impact on our students and encourage them to provide the necessary amount of special education funding without taking it away from funding for regular education. Contact information for our local legislators is provided below.

Thank you for your continued trust and confidence in the Ell-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.

Sen. Pete Brungardt
State Capitol Building
Room 136-E
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7390
pete.brungardt@senate.ks.gov

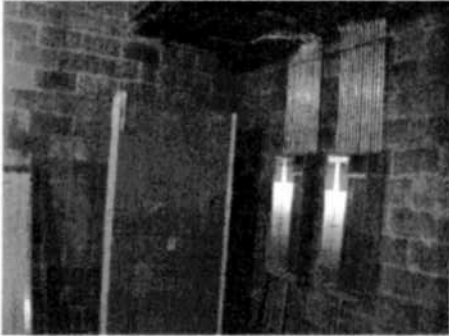
Rep. Charles Roth
State Capitol Building
Room 173-W
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7689
charles.roth@house.ks.gov

Rep. Steven Johnson
Docking State Office Building
915 SW Harrison
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7643
steven.johnson@house.ks.gov

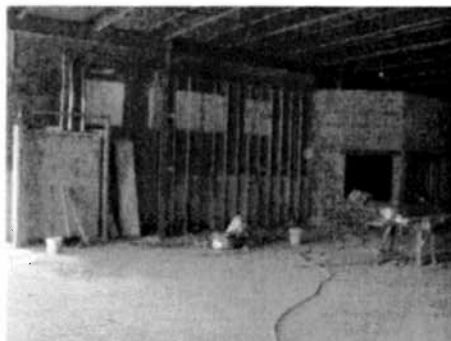
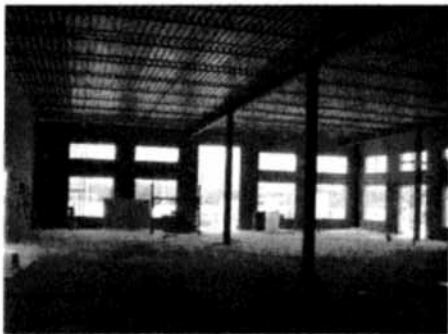
Rep. Tom Arpke
Docking State Office Building
915 SW Harrison
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7643
tom.arpke@house.ks.gov

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS PICTURES

Even with the few cold and snowy days of this past month a considerable amount of progress was made on our construction project. The snowy weather has delayed some of the work but it is thought that once warm weather gets here that time can be made up and the project will be completed by next fall. At the elementary school only a small section of the west exterior wall yet needs to be completed and the restroom floor is the only concrete yet to be poured. The roofers are now installing the roof, electricians are busy running conduit, and doorways to the classrooms are being framed. At the middle/high school considerably more work has been completed on the exterior commons area, restroom, locker room and weight room walls and electricians have been running conduit.








The above pictures are of some of the work that has been done at the elementary school.






The above pictures are of some of the work that has been done at the MS/HS.





28 Monday  TACO PIZZA LETTUCE & SALSA SWEET CORN APPLESAUCE MILK	1 Tuesday National Pancake Week PANCAKES & SYRUP SLICED HAM TRI TATER WARM SPICY APPLES MILK	2 Wednesday ITALIAN DUNKERS CHEESE BREAD TOSSED SALAD APRICOTS WACKY CAKE MILK	3 Thursday NO SCHOOL TEACHER WORK DAY 
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7 Monday RIB ON A BUN LAYS CHIPS COLESLAW CRISP APPLE QUARTERS MILK 	8 Tuesday CHICKEN FAJITA'S LETTUCE & SALSA SEASONED RICE BANANA HALF MILK	9 Wednesday CHICKEN LEG POTATOES & GRAVY GREEN BEANS FRUIT COCKTAIL BISCUIT MILK 	10 Thursday ELEM-Mac & Cheese Little Smokies MSHS- Chilli & Chips CELERY & CUCUMBERS CINNAMON ROLL APPLESAUCE MILK	11 Friday CORN DOG TRI TATER BAKED BEANS ORANGE SLICES MILK 
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14 Monday CHICKEN NUGGETS OVEN FRIES BROCCOLI & CHEESE CRISP APPLE BREAD STICK MILK	15 Tuesday 4th GRADE COOKING Menu below on day 22. MS/HS TACO SALAD WHOLE GRAIN CHIPS CORN, FRUIT SALAD ICE CREAM CUP MILK	16 Wednesday LASAGNA TOSSED SALAD DICED PEACHES GARLIC BREAD RANGER COOKIE MILK 	17 Thursday 4th Grade Cooking Menu below on day 24 MS/HS COUNTRY STEAK POTATOES & GRAVY SWEET PEAS MANDARIN ORANGES WHEAT ROLL, MILK <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18 Friday FISH STICKS TATOR TOTS COLESLAW RUBY APPLESAUCE BREADSTICK, MILK 
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21 Monday NO SCHOOL <i>Spring Break</i>	22 Tuesday NO SCHOOL Mrs. Muningers Class Nachos with Taco Meat Whole grain chips Sweet Corn, Jalapeno's Fruit Salad, Garlic bread Oreo treat, Milk	23 Wednesday NO SCHOOL <i>Spring Break</i> 	24 Thursday NO SCHOOL Mrs. Shavers Class Country Steak Potatoes & Gravy Peas, Mandarin oranges Cheese bread Ice cream floats, Milk	25 Friday NO SCHOOL <i>Spring Break</i>
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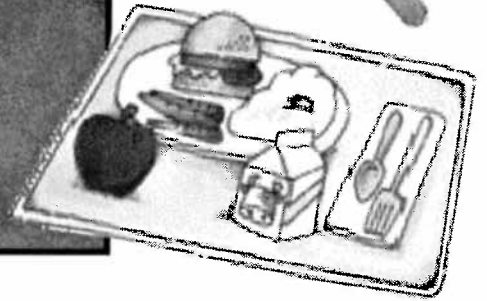
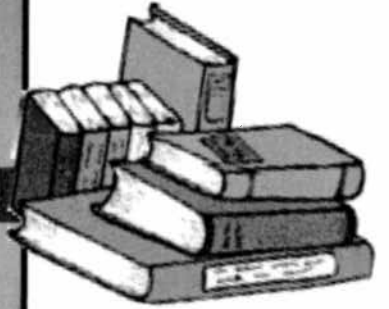
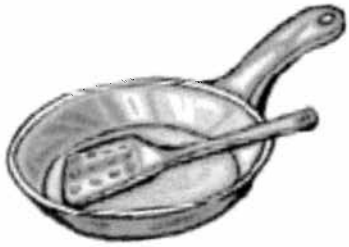
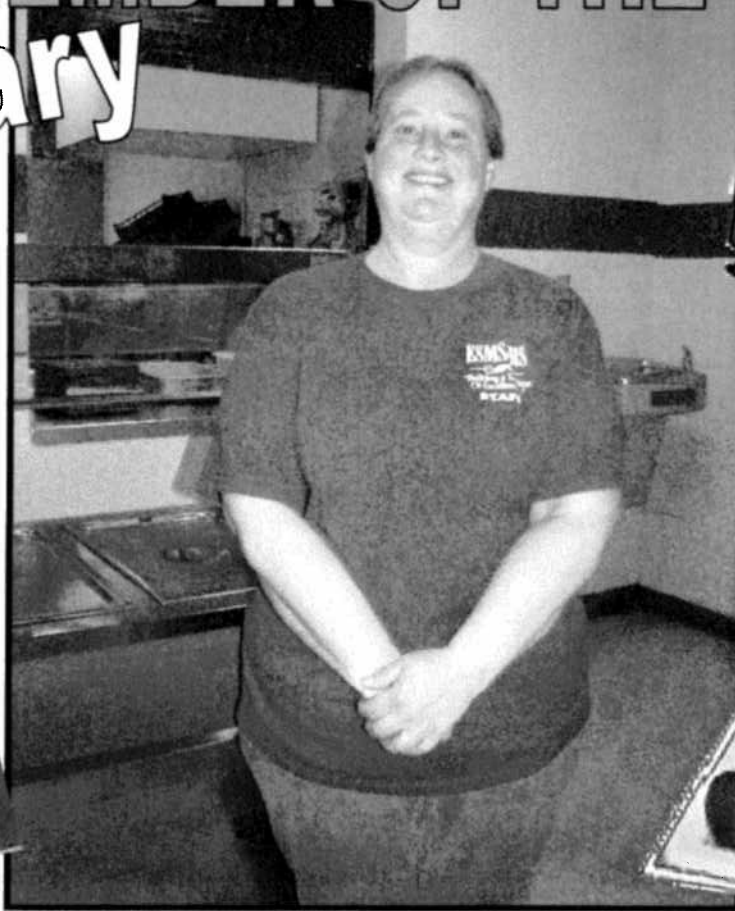
28 Monday GRILL CHICKEN WRAP LETTUCE & RANCH WHOLE GRAIN CORN BANANA HALF BREAD STICK MILK	29 Tuesday TONY'S PIZZA SPINACH SALAD PINEAPPLE CHUNKS VANILLA PUDDING MILK 	30 Wednesday MEATLOAF POTATOES & BR. GRAVY SWEET PEAS BERRY SHORTCAKE HOT ROLL & JELLY MILK	31 Thursday HAMBURGER ON A BUN OVEN FRIES BABY CARROTS CHERRY CLOUD MILK	1 Friday 
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★ ★ **Breakfast and Lunch amounts for March** ★ ★

Elementary- Breakfast \$23.80	Lunch \$38.25
MS/HS - Breakfast \$15.50	Lunch \$40.80
Reduced - Breakfast \$1.10	Lunch \$6.80 Milk-.35

STAFF MEMBER OF THE MONTH

February



Tami Jensen

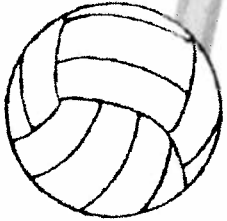
Tami Jensen is the staff member of the month. She cooked for 2 years at the grade school and has been the head cook at the high school for 8 years. In her free time, Tami enjoys reading, watching wildlife, and being outdoors, weather permitting. She also enjoys spending time with her family and friends, especially her two grown kids and 2 granddaughters.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

February



FCA



YGMC



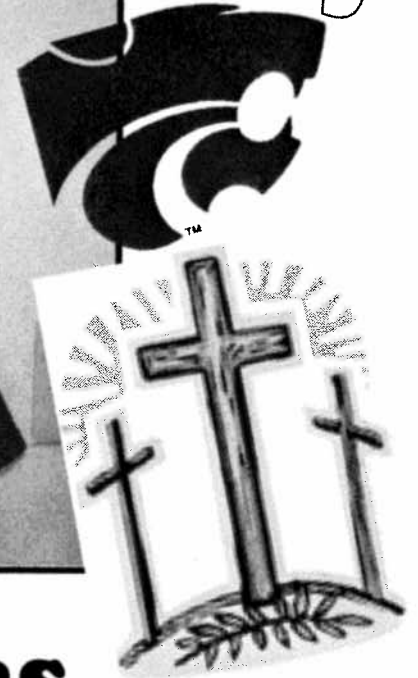
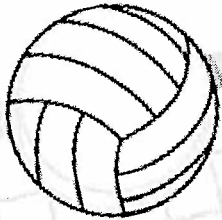
FORT HAYS

Miranda Basinger

Miranda Basinger is the high school student of the month. She is a sophomore and is the daughter of Kerry and JaNae Basinger. She has one sister, Reagan, and three brothers, Kamdon, Branson, and Shepard. Miranda is the sophomore class president and has a 4.0 GPA. She participates in Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Rachel's Challenge, FCA, Quiz Bowl, and Volleyball. Miranda is also a member of YGMC and Volunteer Connection and is active in her church and youth group. She also enjoys reading and cooking. Miranda's future plans include attending Fort Hays State University for her general education classes and then continuing her education elsewhere to get her PhD in Psychology.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

February



Rosanna Arias

Rosanna Arias is the middle school student of the month. Rosanna is in 7th grade and is the daughter of Rodolfo and Alma Arias. She has three brothers, Cristobal, Rodolfo, and Jose. Rosanna participates in volleyball, basketball, and track. She is also involved in Rachel's Challenge. Outside of school Rosanna attends Sacred Heart Cathedral and enjoys running, being active, hanging out with friends, and watching movies and T.V. Rosanna's future plans are to finish school and go to college at Kansas State University.