



THE ELL-SALINE ECHO

May 2008

Check us out at www.ellsaline.org



CARDINAL FOUNDATION GRANTS AT WORK

Ell-Saline Elementary School 2nd grade students are shown doing some of the Bal-a-Vis-X (Balance/Auditory/Vision eXercises) exercises. Bal-a-Vis-X is a program originally developed for students with learning disabilities. However, recent studies have shown that it is beneficial for all students. The Bal-a-Vis-X program uses beanbag and ball exercises to strengthen eye-hand coordination, as well as overall physical coordination, improve cognitive integration, reduce impulsive behaviors, increase focused attention, improve auditory skills and increase academic achievement. The elementary teachers at each grade level incorporate these exercises into their curriculum. These materials were made available through a Cardinal Foundation Grant that was applied for by Mrs. Kern, Mrs. Minneman and Mrs. Songer.



2008-2009 SCHOOL CALENDAR AMENDED

To help us meet in-service needs the board, at its April 14 meeting, approved amending next year's school calendar. A new law passed last year mandates that every school district has a bullying prevention program in place. To meet this requirement we have selected the Olveus Bullying Prevention Program. When the calendar was originally approved we were counting on the trainer being able to be here on one of the before school in-service days. However, he is not able to be here on any of those days but is available on Monday, August 25. To be of most benefit, this training needs to be completed early in the year.

To accommodate the trainer's being here on Monday, August 25, the changes to the calendar are: (1) moved the Monday, August 18, In-Service Day to the following Monday, August 25; (2) moved the Teacher Workday up one day from Tuesday, August 19, to Monday, August 18; and (3) **moved the first day for students up one day from Wednesday, August 20, to Tuesday, August 19.** The first three weeks for students are now 4-day weeks. A copy of the amended calendar is included in this ECHO.

BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

April 14 Board Meeting Report

All board members were present. Action taken was on a 7-0 vote unless noted otherwise.

The board toured the MS/HS building from 5:30 to 6:30.

7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

AUDIENCE WITH THE BOARD
None

REPORTS

BOE – Geena Kejr reminded the board of the KASB Spring Regional Meeting for our area on Tuesday, April 29, at Sedgwick.

Marti Ash (Parents As Teachers) – She informed the board that: the program passed the Quality Assessment review that was conducted earlier this spring; there are 11 families/15 children in the program this year which is the largest number it has been; there is a strong nucleus of families that are working together in it; and with the larger numbers she has been able to begin Play Groups.

Mr. Alexander – His report included: many of our outdoor activities of last week had been postponed because of the weather; we were hosting a MS track meet and that Coach Miller had it well organized; Mrs. Nelson's Child Development students will be helping with the Kindergarten Roundup; the Jump Rope/Hoops for Heart activities were very successful; a vocal quartet of Grace Boyd, Mary Catherine Cookson, Skylar Dreyer and Shelby Weis received a I rating at Regional music that qualified them for state on April 26; state assessments are nearing completion and the preliminary results indicate the students have done very well; prom will be this Saturday; FFA plant sales are going on; the staff will be working on the Math Thematic unit for next year during the In-Service Day next Monday; and he polled the board for those that would be participating in the graduation and promotion exercises.

Mrs. Sprinkle – Her report included: distributing the school newsletter and a flyer on the Summer Library program; there are now 33 kindergarten students for next year on the list and Kindergarten Roundup is this Wednesday; complimented Mrs. Breen on her work in preparing two grant applications to help fund various aspects of the Circle of Friends program and that we received funding on each of the applications; sharing an example of how students took the initiative and began a Circle of Friends for a student they observed not being included in other groups during recess time; there will be one more week of state assessments and the preliminary results indicate the students are doing very well; next Monday's In-Service Day will be spent on Language Arts curriculum, reviewing sample Social Studies materials for adoption next year, and staff development plans for next year; and the MAP assessment will begin on April 22 at both buildings.

Mr. Minneman – His report included: an update on the Eat Smart, Get Moving! program; asked the board about the possibility of moving the Staff Appreciation Luncheon from Monday, May 19, to Tuesday, May 20, because of a whole staff in-service on the 20th (the board agreed to the change); invited the board to help with the Play Day activities at the Elementary School on Thursday, May 15; and shared a list of meetings out-of-the-district he will be attending before the next meeting.

BUSINESS

Accept resignations — The following resignations were accepted: Sharon Morffi (elementary music); Aaron Gipson (MS English); Linda Rickman (MS/HS Counselor); Terry King (Head HS Boys' basketball); Lori Scuitte (Sr. Class Sponsor); and John Johnson (Head MS Boys' Basketball and Asst' MS Football coach).

Certified Staff Contracts — A motion was passed to remove Michelle Lilly's name from the list of recommendations that was presented. The amended list was then approved. (6-1 Marty Kramer) Michelle Lilly was then approved. (5-2 Geena Kejr and Jeff Parker)

Supplemental Contracts — The list was approved as amended. All positions were approved as they are currently filled with the resignations accepted earlier in the meeting and the exceptions noted in the next two sentences. The following positions are currently open: Head HS Boys' Basketball; Asst. HS Girls' Basketball; Elementary Concerts; Yearbook; Drama; Sr. Class Sponsor; Asst. MS Volleyball; Asst. MS Football; Head MS Boys' Basketball; and MS Cheerleading. The following were approved: Krista Russell as Asst. HS Volleyball

coach, Joe Roche as HS Scholar's Bowl coach and Anita Bird as MS Concessions Sponsor.

Bus Bids — The bid of \$61,979 without trade for a used 2007 Blue Bird bus from Melton Motors (Belleville) was approved contingent on the bus passing our inspection. The bid of \$79,799 without trade for a new 2009 Blue Bird bus from Melton Motors was approved if the used bus in the first motion does not pass our inspection. (5-2 Delbert Armbrust and Jamie Bradley) The bid of \$3,850 from RSB Transportation (Sterling) to purchase our 1998 Thomas bus was approved. (6-1 Geena Kejr)

Approve Republishing Budget — It was approved to republish our budget so that we have the budget authority to expend \$875 in ESOL funds that we are entitled to receive from the state. The Budget Hearing was set for our next regular meeting on May 12, at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office.

Approve Change in 2008-2009 Calendar — Adjusting the beginning of school calendar to accommodate needed In-Service was approved. There will now be a Work Day on Monday, August 18, the first day for students will be Tuesday, August 19, and there will be an In-Service Day on Monday, August 25.

Site-Council/Facilities Meeting — A list of prioritized items from the last Site-Council/Facilities Committee meeting was shared. It was the consensus of the board that an architect be contacted to begin working with us on the feasibility of implementing the committee's recommendations. The scope of the potential project will be larger than the district's Capital Outlay Fund or Lease-Purchase options can accommodate which would mean that we would be looking at funding it through a bond issue.

Land Acquisition — It was approved to enter into negotiations with Mike Boyer regarding the possible purchase of his property that is just to the north of the MS/HS building.

There were two Executive Sessions (Personnel—my evaluation & Land Acquisition). No action was taken following either of them.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, May 12, 7:00 p.m. in the District Office.

MONTHLY PARENT LEARNING TIPS #8 USE COMMUNITY RESOURCES TO SUPPORT LITERACY

There are many ways that the community can help support your child's learning. Here are some ideas to investigate.

- Visit your local library. Find out what resources are available for you to take home and use with your child. Get a library card for yourself and one for your child so that you can take these resources home.
- Visit your local museums. There are many types such as natural history, art, zoos, and science. These museums often have wonderfully interactive activities to inspire and motivate children to learn.
- Check the newspapers, listen to the radio, or watch television for announcements about local educational events, exhibits, and community resource fairs.
- If possible, attend field trips with your children. Volunteer to serve as a chaperone for classes.

- Check the newspaper for listings of television programs that provide learning opportunities.
- Obtain a list of community resources that are available to support you in helping your child to succeed in school.
- Frequent businesses that support schools by contributing a portion of their profits to schools.
- If you work outside the home, encourage your employer to allow a certain number of hours a month to attend parent teacher conferences, school performances, or to volunteer at the school.

*Submitted by Susan Stateham
Taken from RMC Research Corporation*

GREENHOUSE HOURS

Open 4-6 after school and on May 3 8- 12. Also if you let us know, we'll be there later or during the day.

Submitted by Lee Weis

LIONS CLUB PEACE POSTER CONTEST



Ell-Saline Elementary School students again this year participated in the Lions Club Peace Poster contest. The Ell-Saline Lions Club sponsors this locally and awards prizes (\$20, \$15, \$10) for the top three posters. This year's theme was "Peace Around the World". Pictured above (left to right) are this year's local winners: Nathan Fouard, 3rd place; Danielle Sprinkle, 1st place; Sesely Omli, 2nd place; and Ms. Erin Marshall, District Art Instructor. Danielle's poster also placed 3rd in the Lions District contest and she received a \$15.00 prize.

A BIG THANK YOU

The Ell-Saline MS/HS Booster club would like to say thank you to all the members, parents, and community members that helped make this year a HUGE success. Without all of the time volunteered or items donated for events such as the carnival, youth basketball tournament, clothing and spirit card sales, this wouldn't have been possible. Thanks for such a great year, and we are looking forward to next years projects being just as successful.

Submitted by Amber Fouard

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

We are now very close to the finish line of the school year. By the time you receive this we will have less than 3-weeks left until the bases have been rounded and school is over for the 2007-2008 school year. It truly seems like such a short time ago that we were just getting started. This has been another of those years where the "time sure goes fast when you're having fun" sayings applies.

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 in their celebration of the past thirteen years with their graduation exercises. 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 34 which is one of the larger preliminary enrollments we have had in a few years. We will soon be interviewing candidates, hiring new staff members and ordering necessary supplies. We are balancing next year's needs between this, and next year's, budgets. As we do those things this year, the same as last year in contrast to many years, we at least have a pretty good idea of the funding we will receive as this will be the last year of the Supreme Court's accepted 3-year funding plan designed by the legislature.

As the legislature comes back to Topeka to finish its work for the year, it remains important for all of us to monitor how any legislation might negatively impact us and to contact our legislators to let them know our concerns. For your convenience, contact information for our area legislators is again listed at the end of this article. 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 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.

Legislative Contact Information

Sen. Pete Brungardt
State Capitol Building
Room 522-S
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7390
brungardt@senate.state.ks.us

Rep. Deena Horst
State Capitol Building
Room 136-N
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7653
horst@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Charles Roth
State Capitol Building
Room 431-N
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7646
roth@house.state.ks.us

Rep. Joshua Svaty
State Capitol Building
Room 322-S
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7656
svaty@house.state.ks.us

Seniors.....

Seniors need to tell Mrs. Rickman about the college that they want to attend for the final transcript.

In the home stretch

Graduating seniors are nearing the finish line of college planning! Though it may seem like the hard work is finished, it's no time to give in to "senioritis." More and more colleges and universities are carefully monitoring grades and extracurricular involvement right up until graduation. The performance in the final semester can mean the difference between being taken off a wait list or making alternative plans. Keep up on schoolwork and extracurricular leadership roles. Decisions still need to be made. Financial aid offers will arrive soon, if they haven't already, and this may impact attendance decisions. Review offers—and all of the other decision-making factors—when choosing a school. It is possible to appeal the financial aid package, but often the first offer will be the best one. And then there's summer. Start thinking about how to spend these months. Would a job provide more perspective on a future career? Is volunteering a wise use of time? Is it appropriate to get a head start on the freshman literature reading list? Now is a good time to decide how you'll spend your time between graduation and the fall term.

Checklists for high school seniors

For seniors:

- If not already done, complete the FAFSA right away and submit it for financial aid consideration
- Watch for the Student Aid Report (SAR), which should arrive in your mail about four weeks after the FAFSA is filed
- Visit colleges that have invited you to enroll
- Track important financial aid and scholarship deadlines, submitting forms as needed
- Compare financial aid packages offered by different schools
- Decide which school to attend and notify the school
- Track and observe deadlines for submitting all required fees and paperwork to the school
- Notify the schools you will not be attending of your decision
- Read, sign and send in the promissory note if borrowing money
- Notify the college you will be attending of any outside scholarships you received
- Have your counselor send your final transcript in May or June to the college you will be attending

Juniors.....

Juniors should consider taking the ACT in June.

ACT

Test Date	Registration	Late Registration
June 14	May 9	May 23

Students may register for the ACT online at www.act.org or pick up a paper/ pencil packet in the counseling office.

Test date reminder

The next national ACT test date is June 14, 2008. The registration deadline is May 9 and late registration is May 10–23. Register online today at actstudent.org.

Nineteen states—Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and West Virginia—will offer the test on September 13. All states will test on October 25. View all 2008-09 test dates at actstudent.org.

An optional Writing Test is available in addition to the multiple-choice achievement test. Go to actstudent.org/writing to find out about the Writing Test, including the colleges that require it.

On the website, check out the test prep aids. Free sample questions are available along with test day tips, a list of what to bring and approved calculators for use on the Math Test.

"Preparing for the ACT," a booklet with a complete practice test, scoring key, writing prompt and sample essays, is available

to download on the Test Prep section of actstudent.org. The ACT registration packet, available from the counseling office, also contains the booklet. Sign up for ACT Online Prep™, the only test prep program developed exclusively by ACT test development professionals. At only \$19.95 for a year's use, it's a great tool. For all your questions about the ACT test, visit www.actstudent.org.

Taking the road trip

While the movie "College Road Trip" offers a comedic look at one fictional teen's experience, college visits can provide the "Aha!" moment in the decision-making process. It's not uncommon to hear someone say, "It just felt right," about stepping onto the campus of choice.

While finding a place that fits is important, it is just one piece of the puzzle. College visits are test drives and each visit should be carefully planned. This is the time to ask a lot of questions.

Review school materials before the visit. Make a list of questions to be answered. Ask them all, along with any that come to mind while you're on campus. The tour guide is a great resource. Ask the guide about the strength of coursework, the ability to schedule necessary classes, availability of extracurricular activities, and any other specific questions you have. However, do understand that tour guides are trained to highlight the best and most exciting aspects of campus life.

Take time for some personal on-site research. Spend time on campus outside of the formal tour, possibly during an arranged overnight stay. Visit the student union and strike up a conversation with a student. Ask about availability of professors and instructors outside of class and find out why the student chose this school. Ask about resources available to students, such as healthcare, recreation, the library, computer labs, etc. The information and experience you gain will help you make some very important decisions, but it should also be an enjoyable time to think about what lies ahead.

Math and science required for fastest growing careers

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics', "Occupational Outlook Handbook," 15 of the 20 fastest growing careers of the next decade require math and science proficiency. The fastest growing fields include network systems and data communications analysts, home healthcare providers, computer software engineers, medical assistants, veterinarians and financial analysts, to name just a few.

Though not all of these positions require four-year degrees, they do require strong abilities in math and science. ACT recommends students take a minimum of three years of math (Algebra I and higher—not including general math, business math or consumer math) and at least three years of natural sciences (earth science, biology, chemistry, physics, etc.) Look at your ACT scores for some guidance in career planning. Consult your school counselor for suggestions on classes to enhance your knowledge set. Visit ACT's World-of-Work Map at act.org/wwm/index.html to see careers which will align with your skills and interests. Use this information to plan beyond high school and into a career.

ACT helps parents prepare for college, too

To understand the intricacies of the college planning cycle, ACT offers help for parents, too. Visit actparent.org for resources on assisting a child with the career-planning process, checklists for the various phases of college and career planning, and the opportunity to sign up for a parent newsletter that provides timely information on financial aid, testing and more.

Research shows that parents are among the most influential people in a teenager's life. At actparent.org, gain the knowledge needed to become a mentor for your teen through this time of discovery and decisions.

Checklists for high school juniors

The school year may be coming to a close, but there's still college planning work to do! Keep the following in mind:

For juniors:

- List, compare and visit colleges
- Take the ACT®
- Prepare a target list of college campus visits
- Prepare questions for each visit
- Compare college costs
- Visit actstudent.org/college/11.html for more college planning resources

Sunflower Bank Community Ambassadors - fill out an application – due by May 30.

Calling All Students,

Are you interested in volunteering? If you are, the applications to Salina's Volunteer Connection are in the counseling dept.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check for changes at www.ellsaline.org.

- | | | | |
|---------|--|-----------|------------------------------------|
| May 1 | One-Act Play | May 16 | LAST DAY OF SCHOOL—11:00 Dismissal |
| May 2 | FHSU Tech Fair | May 16 | No Kindergarten |
| May 2 | Gr. 3-6 RR Celebration (Lock-In) | May 16 | 9:00 Elementary Pep Rally |
| May 2 | 3:00 HS Track @ Lincoln | May 16 | 3:00 HS Track Regional @ Hill City |
| May 2 | 4:00 BSB @ Sedgwick | May 17 | Armed Forces Day |
| May 2 | 4:00 SB Sedgwick @ Ell-Saline | May 19 | Teacher Workday |
| May 3-7 | Senior Trip | May 20 | Teacher In-Service |
| May 4-6 | FFA CDE @ KSU | May 21 | Teacher In-Service |
| May 5 | 4:00 HOA HS Track Fr/Soph @ Moundridge | May 21 | Last Day for Teachers |
| May 5 | 6:30 CPTA Meeting @ ESEL | May 23 | State BSB/SB @ Emporia |
| May 6 | 10:30 HOA League MS Track @ Goessel | May 23 | State Track @ Wichita |
| May 6 | 6:00 ESIC Meeting @ ESEL | May 24 | State BSB/SB/Track |
| May 6 | 6:30-8:30 Gr. 1-2 Game Night | May 26 | Memorial Day—Observed |
| May 8 | 7:00 HS Awards Night | May 28-30 | State FFA Convention |
| May 9 | ACT Registration Deadline | May 30 | Memorial Day |
| May 9 | 8:30 Graduation Rehearsal | | |
| May 9 | 3:00 HS HOA League Track @ Remington | | |
| May 9 | 4:00 BSB/SB @ Wilson | | |
| May 10 | 1:30 High School Graduation | | |
| May 11 | Mother's Day | | |
| May 12 | TBA BSB Regional @ Galva | | |
| May 12 | TBA SB Regional @ Minneapolis | | |
| May 12 | 7:00 BOE Meeting @ ESDO | | |
| May 15 | 10:45 All Kindergarteners | | |
| May 15 | 11:15 All School Picnic | | |
| May 15 | 11:45 Kindergarten Recognition | | |
| May 15 | 1:00 Elementary Play Day | | |
| May 15 | 7:00 MS Awards Night | | |

THANK YOU

We would like to thank all those that attended the ESE CPTA Track Meet on Sat. April 12th. Although it was a little cool and windy, we had a great day! We would like to thank all those people who volunteered their time to help make the track meet so great! We truly appreciate all their help. A special thanks goes out to Karen Hudson, Becky Walters, Shirley Cole, Kevin Patrick, and Jeremy Miller. We would also like to thank Ka-Comm for donating the walkie-talkies we used. Thanks again to all and we hope to see you next year.

ESE CPTA

Ell-Saline USD 307
412 E. Anderson P.O. Box 157
Brookville, KS 67425-0157
(785) 225-6813

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Brookville, Kansas
Permit No. 2

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 in 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.