



THE ELL-SALINE ECHO

October 2007

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Standing l-r: Curtis Pickering, Wyoma "Lilli" Henry, Joan Grover, Brenda Johnson, Karen Hudson, Lee Weis, Susan Reiff, Chad Flesher, Cindy Jensen, Brenda Bockenstette, Merle Walker, Barbara Kern, Erin Marshall, Delbert Armbrust, Andrea Rhodes, Marty Kramer, Glenda Minneman, Dawn Peterson, Sharon Morffi, Krista Russell
Kneeling l-r: Andrea Pickering, Dale Dodd, Geena Kejr, Jamie Bradley
Not Pictured: Susan Cooper, Aaron Gipson, Michelle Gonzales, Michelle Lilly, Michelle Meade, Debbie Smith

BOARD OF EDUCATION STAFF RECOGNITION ACTIVITIES

At halftime of the football game on Friday, September 14, the Board of Education continued the tradition of recognizing staff members. This program introduces staff members new to the district and recognizes full-time staff members that are returning to the district on 5-year anniversaries and every year past 30. The new staff members received a USD 307 staff shirt and the returning staff members received a certificate with their name and years of service and a gift certificate to Carlos O'Kelly's in Salina.

Board members in attendance to help with the presentation were: President Marty Kramer, Vice-President Cheryl Higgins, Delbert Armbrust, Jamie Bradley and Geena Kejr. Staff members being

recognized were:

Dale Dodd – Dale is the new MS/HS Business Teacher and comes to us from the Rock Hills school district. Dale has also taught at Mankato, White Rock, and the University of Wisconsin. He is also retired from the U.S. Air Force.

Chad Flesher – Chad is our new district-wide School Resource Officer (SRO). Chad is not a new face, however, as he has been here in past years helping Sean Kochanowski with security at ball games.

Aaron Gipson – Aaron is one of our new MS/HS Language Arts Teachers and is a first-year teacher. Aaron most recently obtained a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from Washburn Law School.

Michelle Gonzales – Michelle is a Rule 10 MS Assistant Volleyball Coach. She is a graduate of Sacred Heart High School in Salina.

Joan Grover – Joan is the elementary band and MS/HS choir and band instructor. Joan comes to us from Osborne and has previously taught music at Natoma. She is also licensed to teach English.

Wyoma "Lilli" Henry – Lillie made the longest trip to be with us this year as last year she was working in the Window Rock school district in Fort Defiance, Arizona. Lillie is with us this year as our MS/HS librarian.

Michelle Lilly – Michelle is our other new MS/HS Language Arts Teacher and she, also, is a first-year teacher. Michelle is a graduate of Kansas Wesleyan University and she did her student teaching at South High in Salina.

Michelle Meade – Michelle is the new Play Director for this fall. Michelle has prior experience with the Great Plains Theater in Abilene, Abilene High School and Middle School productions and classes,

various youth presentations, and has performed in over 60 professional and regional productions and as a voice for Jim Henson's Sesame Street productions in New York.

Glenda Minneman – Glenda is the new 6th Grade Teacher and comes to us most recently from Lincoln where she was the Title I teacher. Prior to that Glenda was also a classroom or Title I teacher in Ness City, White City, Lyons and Claflin.

Sharon Morffi – Sharon is the new elementary Vocal Music Teacher. Sharon comes to us from the Kansas City area where she taught for 4 years at Nativity Parish School in Leawood.

Dawn Peterson – Dawn is the new 2nd Grade Teacher and comes to us from Minneapolis. Dawn has previously taught in Colby, Salina and Minneapolis.

Andrea Pickering – Andrea is the new 5th Grade teacher and is a first-year teacher. Andrea earned her Bachelor's Degree from Luther College in Iowa in 2004. She was a substitute teacher for us last year.

Curtis Pickering – Curtis is the Rule 10 HS Head Girls' Basketball Coach. He is a graduate of Ell-Saline High School and Bethany College. Curtis has previously been an assistant coach at Sacred Heart, St. John's Military and Bethany College.

Andrea Rhodes – Andrea is an elementary office aide and is a graduate of Central High School in Salina. Andrea's children are both students in the Ell-Saline Schools.

Krista Russell – Krista is the new elementary P.E. Teacher. Krista is a graduate of Tipton High School and Fort Hays State University. Previously she has taught in Kansas City and Concordia.

Brenda Bockenstette – Brenda is in her 5th year as District Office and Transportation secretary for the Ell-Saline district.

Erin Marshall – Erin is in her 5th year as our elementary and MS/HS Art teacher. Erin is a graduate of Ell-Saline Schools and McPherson College. She also coaches MS volleyball, basketball and track and this year is assisting with HS volleyball.

Merle Walker – Merle is in his 5th year as Building Operator at the Middle School/High School and as the District Maintenance Supervisor.

Susan Cooper – Susan is in her 10th year as a bus driver for the Ell-Saline district.

Karen Hudson – Karen is in her 10th year as a cook at the Middle School/High School.

Cindy Jensen – Cindy is in her 10th year as an employee for Ell-Saline school district. Cindy was a cook for two years before switching to a bus driver.

Brenda Johnson – Brenda is in her 10th year as secretary at the Middle School/High School.

Susan Reiff – Susan is in her 10th year as a cook at the elementary school. Susan has also worked a couple of years as summer painting help.

Lee Weis – Lee is in his 10th year as Vocational Agriculture teacher for the Ell-Saline school district. Lee previously taught thirteen years in the Williamsburg High School. Lee is a graduate of Salina Central High School and Kansas State University.

Debbie Smith – Debbie is in her 15th year as a bus driver for the Ell-Saline district. Debbie was unable to be there as she was attending a ceremony welcoming her husband, Keith, and other National Guard members back from their tour of duty in Iraq.

Barbara Kern – Barbara is in her 20th year as Kindergarten Teacher for the Ell-Saline school district. Prior to her joining us Barbara taught in the Salina school system. Barbara is a graduate of Salina Central High School and Kansas Wesleyan University.

The Board of Education welcomes the new staff members and look forward to the positive contributions they will make, and thank all of the returning staff for the years they have given in helping educate our students.

BOARD OF EDUCATION UPDATE

September 10 Board Meeting Report

All board members were present. Action taken was on a 6-0 vote unless noted otherwise.

7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

AUDIENCE WITH THE BOARD
None.

REPORTS

BOE – None

MS KIDDS – A group of 8th graders (Torey Goddard, Jessica Merrill, Taylor Alvarez, Darriane Wikoff, Ross Armstrong) and SRO Flesher gave a report on activities of the organization last year and a brief outline of activities for this year.

Mrs. Sprinkle – Reported on: great start to the school year; new technology pieces (projectors mounted in the ceiling in grades 2-6 classrooms; new website and positive comments from parents about the interactive calendar in particular; PowerSchool; MAP testing); anxiously waiting the formal release of state assessment scores from last year so that we can publicize what are preliminarily shown as positive results; traffic flow changes going well; staff development focus of this year will be on writing; and the Book Fair, the Carnival, and a fundraiser for a family undergoing some major medical challenges all happening in the near future.

Mr. Alexander – Reported on: state fair; full week of home activities; September 20 being the official count date for funding and for KSHSAA activity purposes (it appears we will stay in the 2A classification); 10 students are enrolled in a total of 5 different on-line courses; PowerSchool; PLATO math program for MS students; staff development focus on text structures; eligibility lists have begun this week; and the new website.

Mr. Minneman – Reported on: current enrollment of 469 which is 2 students above last year but because the larger kindergarten class and those students only counting as .5 our FTE is slightly less than last year; kitchens in both buildings passed their inspection with no violations being noted. He also informed the board that the pecan tree to the west of the library lost a large limb which is putting more of the tree at risk of additional branches falling. Therefore, he was getting a cost estimate to have the tree removed. Discussion then followed about the pine trees in front of the school and by the propane tank showing a considerable amount of dead limbs. He also checked on the cost of having all of them removed. (The trees have since been removed.)

BUSINESS

Accept Resignation – Ryan Negus' resignation as custodian at the elementary school was accepted.

Supplemental Positions – The following recommendations were approved: Dale Dodd, yearbook sponsor; Erin Marshall and Michelle Werner, Asst. HS volleyball coaches; and Michelle Meade, play director.

Out-of-District Student – Shauna McKee-Blatcher,

7th grader from Salina South Middle School was approved.

Staff Recognition – Plans for the recognition at half-time of Friday's football game of all new staff members, and the returning staff members with 5-year in-district experience increments, were finalized.

Board Policy – The 1st reading of several KASB board policy updates was held. They will be brought back at the October board meeting for approval.

FFA Out-of-State Travel Requests – Mr. Weis' request for 7 FFA students to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis from October 24 – 28 and some FFA students to attend the National Western Livestock Show in Denver from January 19 – 21 were approved.

Handbook Amendment – The Senior Trip guidelines that were approved last January were inadvertently left out of the handbooks previously approved for this year. They were approved to replace what was approved in July.

Prior to adjournment the board was reminded that at the October board meeting, all patrons interested in filling the current vacancy will have an opportunity to state their reasons for wishing to be appointed and for the board to ask questions of each of them. The selected applicant will take office immediately.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, October 8, 7:00 p.m. in the District Office.

Tentative October Agenda Items

SRO Report

2006-2007 Testing Updates

Board Policy—2nd reading

KASB Convention Delegate and Alternate

MONTHLY PARENT LEARNING TIPS #1 CREATE A GOOD ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDY

One of the best ways that parents can show their children that education is important is to create a more "school like" family. What does this mean?

Find a place for your child to study

The most important ways that you can help develop good study habits is to find a good place for your child to study. It is helpful to choose a place that has good light and is quiet, with a desk or table for writing. If you don't have the space for a desk or table just for study, a kitchen or dining room table will work just fine.

Turn off the telephone and television

Many families believe that they owe their child's

success in school to turning off the television and phone for at least one hour each day. This can be done either after school or in the evening. Families who do this every day report an increase in their child's grades and attitude about school. During this quiet time, children (and adults if possible) should either complete homework or read.

Be a good role model

It is so important to be a good role model for your child. Children often copy your words and actions. Let your child see you reading—even if it's the newspaper or a magazine. It doesn't matter whether you read in English or in another language. It's not easy to find the time in your busy day but even a few minutes will show your child how important reading really is. Also make sure your child sees you making grocery lists, figuring out costs of products, and paying bills. This shows them how they can use what they are learning in school in their every day life.

Talk about what you and your child have read

Tell your child what you have been reading. Encourage him or her to ask you questions about your reading. Ask your child questions about their reading, as well. Have them describe the characters, the setting for the story, and ask them what they liked best about what they are reading or if there were any surprises. Ask if they would like you to read a chapter to them. Also encourage them to read to you.

Submitted by Susan Stateham

Taken from RMC Research Corporation

ELL-SALINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL MINUTES

September 4, 2007

Members present: Dana Sprinkle, Melissa Heinrich, Kim Parks, Amber Fouard, Susan Stateham, Robbyn Anglin, Robyn Parker, Barbara Kern, Stephanie Svaty

Members not present: Krista Farrell, Michelle Griffin

Chairperson, Amber Fouard called the meeting to order at 6:00pm, welcoming returning and new members. Introductions were made.

Selection of Roles were made for 2007-2008

Chairperson: Amber Fouard

Assistant Chairperson: Kim Parks

Secretary: Susan Stateham

Dana Sprinkle, principal, reported there are 239 students currently enrolled, which is a decrease from last year due to graduating a large 6th grade and enrolling a small 1st grade. There are several new in-district families. Dana will report at the next meeting the demographics of boys-girls and in-out of district students.

A video of the Measure of Academic Performance (MAP) testing was viewed with a discussion following. MAP testing is an individual computerized testing of reading, math and language arts that will be administered to students in grades 3-11 in the fall and spring. It is replacing the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS). The district Steering Committee is in the process of sharing more detailed information with parents and patrons.

Susan Stateham, Title I Reading Teacher, presented a parent survey that is given to all Title I parents at the spring Parent-Teacher Conferences.

The next meeting of the School Improvement Council will be November 6, 2007, at 6pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.

Susan Stateham, Secretary

CPTA MINUTES for Monday, August 20, 2007

Attendance:

Mary Ellen Muninger	Mindy Schneider
Joyce Songer	Nikki Davenport
Michelle Griffin	Anita Bird
Wendy DeArvil	Darci Ditto
Desiree O'Shea	Ben O'Shea
Dana Sprinkle	Casie Cox
Angela Hopkins	Laurie Came
Darcy Bradley	Michelle Schrock
Dana Edgerton	Rachel Flesher
Melissa Heinrich	Andrea Rhodes
Susie Omli	Myra George
Stephanie Svaty	

Minutes were read and approved.

Treasurers Report:

Bank of Tescott:	\$ 12,800.19
Library Fund:	\$ 3,185.87

Anita Bird advised the budget should reflect changes to include yearbook expenses and school supplies. Dillon's Gift Certificates have been removed as a line item. Event expenses have

been added as well as the Sam's membership. Custodial staff and bus drivers will be included under Teacher Appreciation Week. Cash inflows and outflows were discussed.

Mindy Schneider moved to include nurses in the teacher appreciation line item. Melissa Heinrich seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Mrs. Sprinkles Notes:

*Reminder of the traffic flow was discussed. Letter was included for parents during enrollment.

*Reminder regarding lunch account policies. Will not charge beyond 5 lunches. Children will be fed peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, carrot sticks and milk.

*Back to school night 8-21-07 from 3:30 to 5:30.

*Class Conferences in which teachers can share policies/practices of that particular classroom, open house is 8-27-07 from 5:30 to 7:30. Next year looking at combining back to school night and the classroom conferences. The classroom conferences are not in place of parent/teacher conferences.

*Starbase will be this fall, October 18 instead of being held in the spring.

*Thanked CPTA for donating extra school supplies to the school.

*Stage area- staff has been working really hard on cleaning this area and keeping it clean. Mrs. Sprinkle requested that this not become a dumping ground.

*Parent/Teacher conferences are being held September 26 and 27. There is no school on September 28th or October 1st.

*All staff members have been working hard on utilizing the website. Stephanie Svaty advised that the KNEA (Kansas National Education Association) might be a good link to add to our CPTA website. Michelle Griffin will add the link.

Carnival Update:

Mindy Schneider advised that the theme for this year's carnival is "Stampede at Ell-Saline." She advised that her mother has made up shirts not only for the kids as giveaways for the BINGO game but for the committee as well. Anita read what the menu was going to be. A note will be sent out to parents with a list of requested items. Carnival volunteer sign up sheets will be hung in each classroom during the classroom conferences. Darcy Bradley suggested adding stuffed animals to the cakewalk since the baked goods go so quickly. Baskets have been assigned to each classroom.

Volleyball Camp Update:

Laurie Came reported she had 24 girls attend the volleyball camp. Kathy Frances gave her a good deal on shirts. Laurie hopes to reduce camp costs next year. Thanked those that helped her with the volleyball camp: Mandy Diehl, Cher Richards, Tricia Walker and Emily Smith.

School Supplies:

Michelle Griffin reported that CPTA had 32 prepackaged sets of school supplies, 30 were sold and the extras were donated to the school.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Joyce Songer reminded CPTA that Red Ribbon week is the last week in October. Michelle Griffin advised that CPTA has budgeted \$100.00 to help with this event.

Goals: Discussion was held about CPTA goals for the 2007-2008 school year.

The following goals were decided upon:

1. Obtain quotes for the covered picnic area/outdoor learning center. Discussion was held whether or not rubber coated picnic tables would be practical. It was decided that mobile tables would be best. Mindy Schneider will check into what types/sizes of rubber coated tables could be purchased. Melissa Heinrich, Anita Bird and Ben O'Shea agreed to be part of the subcommittee to help in the planning of this project.

2. Michelle Griffin suggested painting "games" or activities on the giant cement slab since the kids are confined to this area during bad weather. Laurie Came suggested that since some of the high school kids are very talented painters, could possibly volunteer their time. She will check on this and see if high school students have volunteer/community service hours as a requirement for school. Melissa Heinrich will check with the confirmation students through her church and see if they have volunteer hours as well.

Mindy Schneider requested a "carnival box" for storage purposes.

Miscellaneous

Lora Barker has resigned her position as the library fund chairperson. Michelle read the responsibilities; Dana Edgerton volunteered to take on this position. Michelle further requested that

CPTA purchase a digital camera for yearbook, school events, etc. Would also be utilized to place photos on the web. Laurie Came will obtain price quotes.

Anita Bird requested that when someone needs a check for purchasing items, a form must be filled out. These forms are located in the CPTA box in Mrs. Smith's office.

Submitted by Nikki Davenport, CPTA Secretary

CPTA MINUTES for Monday, September 17, 2007

In Attendance:

Stephanie Repshire	Michelle Schrock
Angela Hopkins	Darci Ditto
Dawn Pierce	Casie Cox
Richard J. Giersch	Desiree O'Shea
Ben O'Shea	Kim Parks
Amber Fouard	Andrea Rhodes
Melissa Heinrich	Jennie Dishon
Dana Edgerton	Dana Sprinkle
Laurie Came	Darcy Bradley
Holly McKain	Mindy Schneider
Mendee Kramer	Julie Weems
Susie Omli	Michelle Griffin
Anita Bird	Wendy DeArvil

Meeting began at 6:30 with introductions

Mrs. Sprinkles Notes

Turned in a check from Target for \$42.50

*Reminder of Sports Recognition Night on Friday Sept. 21 and this is also the night of the Renee Bernardo chili supper fundraiser.

*Parent/Teacher conferences start Sept. 26 and there is no school Sept. 27, 28, and Oct. 1

* Reminder that Oct. 4 is Picture day

* Reminder that Oct. 6 is School Carnival

* Asked for update on classroom communicators. Wendy DeArvil explained the position and passed around sign up sheets.

* Asked CPTA about buying new board games for classrooms

*Asked CPTA about purchasing trays for the kitchen to be used during carnival and classroom cooking projects.

* Asked for adult supervision of siblings during sport practices at the school. Especially when using the bathroom.

Secretary Report

Thank you's were passed around
Minutes were approved

Treasurer's Report

\$12,684.90 in checking

\$6,479.22 in Library fund

We earned \$1,000 profit from book fair.

Carnival update

Mindy Schneider said we would be using small (8oz) cans of soda this year instead of the fountain soda.

*Painting of games and decorations would be on Sept. 18.

*Ticket information will be sent home on Sept.24 and Oct. 2. Ticket sales cut off will be the morning of Oct.3

*Trowbridge class still needs a basket coordinator.

Renee Bernardo Fundraiser update

Stephanie Repshire brought a donation check from the Farmer & Ranchers Cafe

*Courtney Clifford will be making the Chili and cinnamon rolls. Others have volunteered their services also.

*Donations can be given to any CPTA officer, Checks made payable to CPTA. One check will be written to Renee Bernardo at the end of the fundraiser.

Old Business

Anita Bird brought up about buying movie passes in bulk from the theater at a discount and selling them to parents as a service from the CPTA. This issue was tabled until the next meeting.

Bylaws

Tabled until the next meeting

Fundraising Goals

Motion to sell Home Interior candles this year was passed. Candles will be sold during November. Discussion was held about purpose of fundraising for this year. Motion to build outdoor covered learning area with cement slab and picnic tables was made and approved. This could be a two year project. Bids and more information will be covered at the October meeting.

Miscellaneous

Dana Edgerton moved that CPTA spend \$150 to purchase new games for classroom. Motion was approved, Amber Fouard will purchase games.

*Michelle Griffin has added new dates to the on-line calendar

*Mrs. Sprinkle has updated e-mail addresses on website

*CPTA newsletter will be written by Angela Hopkins.

Next Meeting Oct. 15, 6:30pm

Submitted by Michelle Griffin

VOCAL/BAND NOTES

Students from each of the Heart of America Schools will gather at Berean Academy on October 4, 2007, for the League Honor Choir. They will spend the afternoon rehearsing under the direction of Brad Vogel from Tabor College. That evening the mass choir will present a concert at 7:00 which is open to the public.

Emily Attig, Katie Attig, Grace Boyd, Mary Katherine Cookson, Skylar Dreyer, Liz Elder, Suzanna Peterson-Beard, Norma Rincon, and Shelby Weis are the Ell-Saline Choir students who will be attending.

Six Ell-Saline band students were chosen to participate in the 2007 League Honor Band on November 5 at Canton-Galva. Tamra Nelson and Michelle Kejr will be playing the flute; Grace Boyd will play the clarinet; Seirra Oberle will play the tenor saxophone; Mikayla Chiles will play trumpet; and Jesse Freeman will play the trombone.

Submitted by Joan Grover

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Welcome to autumn from Ell-Saline USD 307. The daylight hours are becoming fewer, there is a definite coolness in the air as evening approaches, we have had moisture that will be beneficial to the wheat fields that will soon be planted, spring crops are changing colors and before long will start to be harvested, shotgun blasts are heard as doves are flying and yellow school buses are going everywhere. Ah, autumn is such a great time of year!

It is hard to imagine that September is already practically over and that we have been in school for more than a month. Where has the time gone and what has been accomplished? Usually when time goes so quickly it is because of being busy and of things going smoothly. This month has been no different. Among other things, our students have attended the state fair, taken the DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment), learned about Fire Safety, played volleyball and football games, been on FFA and yearbook trips, ordered sophomore class rings and senior graduation announcements, went on a science field trip, and have learned about Bullying Prevention. Our staff has attended several out-of-district workshops, as well as several meetings within their buildings or the district, to learn more about new programs that we are starting.

This year we are switching to a new student management software program (PowerSchool) that will help us provide better, and more timely,

information to parents about their child's grades, attendance, homework assignments, etc. We are implementing a new testing program (MAPS—Measures of Academic Progress) in grades 3-11 that will provide us with information to better reach the needs of the individual students. This test will replace the ITBS test that we had given the last few years. More information on each of these programs will be given out at Parent-Teacher Conferences. We have made the switch over to our new website and the staff continues to become familiar with it. If you haven't looked at it (www.ellsaline.org) for awhile please do so as there continues to be more information on it. Even with all of these activities going on it is evident when I am around the buildings that our students are still working hard in class and that the staff is still prepared to teach. It appears to me that we continue to provide well-rounded academic and activity programs with a dedicated staff that is willing to work with kids.

Again last year the joint effort among the staff, students and parents points out the strength of our academic programs as both our elementary school and middle/high school met the targets on the state reading and math assessments that are counted for making AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress). This is nothing new for us as we have done so every year the assessments have been given. So far we have only officially been given the building and district scores and not individual class scores. All of the preliminary indications are that they will also be very positive. In addition to the accomplishments on the state assessments, our high school students that took the ACT exam had a Composite Score close to the state average. All of this helps illustrate not only the strength of our faculty and curriculum in grades K-12 but also the importance that you as parents place on the education of your children by encouraging and helping them with their studies. We appreciate all that you do to help make our jobs more rewarding.

As a district we are only as strong as all parts working together are. This week there is another great opportunity for this to happen. That opportunity lies in coming to the Parent-Teacher Conferences held from 4:15 – 8:15 on Wednesday and from 7:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday. I encourage all of our parents/guardians to take advantage of this opportunity.

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 good things going on in the district and we can get to know each other.

Counselor's Corner

Seniors and their parents should attend the Junior/Senior/Parent Night September 19th at 6:30 p.m. "What is after graduation?" and "What needs to be done during the senior year?" are often difficult questions for Seniors to answer as the day comes closer to the reality of graduation. Questions arise about joining the work force, military careers, vocation training, two-year/four-year colleges, what are some of the deadlines, and extra information concerning being a senior. Information on all of these topics will be covered to give an idea for where to start and what needs to be done during the senior year. Juniors and their parents are welcomed to join to gain a jump on their senior year.

Seniors.....

Military recruiters.... Many times, students and parents are startled by the "number of times a military recruiter will call." On caller id, all recruiter numbers will show up as US Government, but the caller will belong to a different branch of the service. Unfortunately or fortunately, recruiters do not talk to one another about their required phone calls to seniors.

NCAA – student athletes for college. Athletes considering participation in NCAA Division I & II schools after graduation should visit with their counselor about guidelines. Check the NCAA hyperlink on the counseling web page. Remember to register with NCAA Clearinghouse online during your senior year.

Seniors should be applying for admission to the colleges of their choice and locating scholarships.

College Night Salina High School - South will again be hosting a four-county college planning conference. College Night will be held on October 29th at 7:00 p.m. Approximately 50 college and military representatives will be there to provide information to juniors, seniors, and their parents. This is an excellent opportunity to receive information to assist in making post-high school plans.

Scholarship Information. . .

In addition to the web, monthly scholarship newsletters are given to Seniors through their English class or a copy may be picked up in the Counseling Center. The open stack file in the counseling office is where information and application blanks are kept.

Student athletes – fall is time to register with NCAA

If you are a senior who is planning to participate in Division I or II sports as a college freshman, fall is the time to register to be certified by the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. You must do this in order to qualify for college athletics. You can register beginning in October.

The NCAA also has new eligibility rules relating to the required high school core courses for student-athletes. You can register and check out the rules at the student information page at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/NCAA/student/index_student.html. You also can read "The Guide for College-Bound Student-Athletes" at the website, or you can order a paper copy of the guide by calling 1-800-638-3731. The guide provides a summary of the rules and regulations in an easy-to read form. Guidelines relate to recruiting, eligibility, financial aid and college freshman eligibility requirements for Divisions I and II.

Look beyond the "brand name"

When it comes to certain things, like an MP3 player or a game system, the brand name might be important to you. You may have even purchased something based solely on what your friends were saying about it. Some students think of college the same way. But if you approach your college choice that way, you'll be missing out on some great colleges (more than 3,000 four-year and two-year schools) that might be great places for you.

There's certainly nothing wrong with attending a school that everyone knows about and talks about in a positive way—if it really is a good fit for you. As you investigate colleges, check out all the details and decide where to attend based on who you are, what you're interested in and where you think you want to go in life.

Once you look at the details of a college, you'll see there's a lot more than the name to consider.

Here are some things to think about when looking at a college:

Location — distance from home

- Environment — type of school (two-year or four-year); urban or rural; co-ed, male or female student body; religious affiliation; public or private school
- Size — enrollment and campus size
- Admission requirements — deadlines; tests required; average test scores, GPA and rank of the freshman class
- Academics — majors offered; student-faculty ratio; typical class size; special requirements
- Financial aid — deadlines; required forms; percentage of student population receiving aid; scholarships; part-time employment opportunities
- College expenses — tuition, room and board; estimated total budget; application fee and deposits
- Housing — residence hall requirements; availability; types and sizes; food plans
- Facilities — academic and recreational
- Activities — clubs, organizations; sororities/fraternities; athletics and intramurals

Free financial aid guide

It's never too early to learn about college financial aid programs, and one of the best sources is the U.S. Department of Education. To find out about federal financial aid programs and your rights and responsibilities under these programs, read "Funding Education Beyond High School: The Guide to Federal Student Aid" from the U.S. Department of Education at http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/index.html. The guide is available in English and Spanish. You also can find a link there to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). If you have questions or want additional information on student financial assistance, contact your high school counselor, the financial aid officer at the college you're interested in attending, or the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

Beware of solicitations

Planning for college is an exciting time for a student. But sadly, some people try to take advantage of students by offering bogus services and programs to help plan for college. Before acting on any offer, write the information down. Research the offer and the company or person calling, and talk it over with your parents and counselor.

If you are a victim of a scam, take the following steps:

- Immediately contact your bank, explain the situation, and request that the bank either monitor or close the compromised account.
- Report the fraud to the Dept. of Education Office of Inspector General hotline at 1-800-MIS-USED (1-800-647-8733) or e-mail oig.hotline@ed.gov. Special agents in the Office of Inspector General investigate fraud involving federal education dollars.
- Report the fraud to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The FTC has an online complaint form at www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams and a hotline at 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357; teletype for the hearing impaired: 1-866-653-4261). The FTC will investigate if the fraud seems widespread. It's important that every student contacted by those in question lodge a complaint so the FTC has an accurate idea of how many incidents have occurred.
- Notify the police about the incident. Impersonating a federal officer, telemarketing fraud schemes and identity theft are crimes.

For information about identity theft prevention, visit www.ed.gov/misused.

For information about preventing financial aid scams, visit www.studentaid.ed.gov/lisa.

Juniors

The PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) will be given on Wednesday, October 17 at 8:30 a.m. This assessment is necessary to enter scholarship competitions conducted by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. It also measures skills that are important for success in college and is a practice for SAT testing. This is the only day that it will be given at EII-Saline. The cost is \$12 and is payable at the time of registering. The payment deadline is October 5th. To receive additional information, please see Mrs. Rickman.

ASVAB testing...

On Wednesday, September 12th, juniors took the SASVAB test from 8:30 a.m.-12:00a.m. The SASVAB—encourages students to view their results as snapshots of their current knowledge, skills, and abilities and then compare these with the important KSA's (Knowledge, Skills and Abilities) associated with their occupational choices. The SASVAB was developed by the U.S. Department of Defense and was originally designed to predict future success in military occupations. **It is now the most widely used aptitude test battery in the world used to assess a student's ability to learn new skills and is a predictor of success in civilian and military jobs.** There are thousands of career exploration tools, instruments, and tests available. However, the vast majority of them are interest questionnaires of "what do you want to do?" An aptitude-based career exploration program, such as the SASVAB, can be very useful for students about to enter or considering college or technical training. It can be valuable in making decisions while minimizing false starts and attendant expenses.

Once the scores are received back, the Career Exploration Program is used to encourage students to increase their level of self-knowledge. The SASVAB Career Exploration Program is structured as an exploration model, concerned with giving information on oneself and on the characteristics of select careers to the students, prompting them to begin searching careers with that information in mind. This program includes an interest inventory and other activities and resources designed to help students explore the world of work. Students may decide to use their scores to enlist in the military after graduation.

The fear of being recruited by the military is completely unrelated to taking the SASVAB at school, or even having heard of the SASVAB. Being recruited is a function of being 18. However, **no one is under any obligation to the military as a result of taking the SASVAB.** Many students take the SASVAB for career exploration and have no interest in military occupations.

Underclassmen....

Get ready for college *ACT's News*

Sweating over your upcoming ACT test? Worried that your long list of extracurricular activities isn't impressive enough? None of that will matter if you're not taking challenging classes in high school. Your high school coursework is the best preparation for college.

The number one reason to take the right courses is to prepare yourself to do college work. It's true that colleges look at your high school coursework when they decide if they will admit you. But the best reason to take challenging courses in high school and work hard in them is to make sure you won't need remedial courses in college. It's a waste of time and money to take basic courses in college that you should have taken in high school.

And the worst case scenario is you could become discouraged and drop out. Sure you want to get into college, but you want to stay in, too. Dropping out happens more than you think. ACT research shows that around one-fourth of college students don't return for their second year of school, and only around half graduate from the same school within five years. Many students aren't completing their college degrees, and a big reason is that they aren't prepared to do the work.

The class of 2007 high school graduates had slightly higher ACT scores than classes from previous years, and there were more students prepared to do college coursework in math and science than in years past. But there are still many students who aren't prepared for college courses.

Using students' scores on the math and science tests, ACT found that only 28 percent earned a score that showed they were ready for college biology, while only 43 percent earned a score that showed they were ready for college algebra.

What can you do to get prepared? Take challenging courses in high school, particularly working on high-level skills in math and science. And work on your reading skills; you'll be doing a lot of reading in college.

There's always time to make changes and improve academically before college. Check your schedule and the courses you've taken and visit with your counselor.

What courses do you need for college?

Your high school has requirements and colleges have requirements. You need to pay attention to both. Make sure you check the requirements for the colleges and programs you're interested in to see if they require additional classes.

ACT advises high school students to take a core curriculum to prepare for college, and it's increasingly important for careers as well. The recommendations are at least four years of English, three years each of math (Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II), social sciences (courses such as U.S. History, World History and American Government) and natural sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics). Taking advanced courses beyond the recommended core classes will give students the best chance to be ready to enter college without needing remedial classes. Use your test scores to see how prepared you are for college. Research shows that students who earn a score of 24 or higher on the ACT Science Test are more likely than others to be ready for college biology. Students earning a score of 22 or higher on the ACT Math Test are more likely than others to be ready for college algebra. Students earning an 18 or higher on the ACT English Test are likely to have the skills necessary to be ready for college English composition classes. And students earning a score of 21 or higher on the ACT Reading Test are likely to succeed in college-level social science courses.

Test date reminder

The next national ACT test date is Oct. 27, 2007. The regular registration deadline is Sept. 21 and the late registration deadline is Oct. 5. The ACT also will be offered in 19 states on Sept. 15, but registration deadlines are past for this test date. Online registration and test date information is available at www.actstudent.org/account. If you choose to register online, register early to avoid heavy Web traffic and delays.

ACT offers an optional Writing Test in addition to the multiple-choice achievement test. Go to www.actstudent.org/writing/index.html to find out about the Writing Test, including what the colleges you're interested in have decided about requiring it.

While you're at the website, don't forget to take advantage of test prep aids, including free sample test questions at www.actstudent.org/testprep/.

ACT Online Prep™, www.actstudent.org/onlineprep/index.html, the only test prep program developed exclusively by ACT test development professionals, is also available for \$19.95 for a year's use. You also can find test day tips, a list of items to bring to the test, and details on what type of calculator you can 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 at actstudent.org. Your ACT registration packet, available from the counseling office, also includes the booklet. Try taking the sample test and timing yourself to prepare for test day.

For all your questions about the ACT test, visit www.actstudent.org.

AFTER PROM MINUTES

This month's After Prom meeting was held at the high school cafeteria on Monday, September 17. Parents attending the meeting were: Connie & Kirk Cates, Lisa Armstrong, Scott & Julie Rohrig, Julie McCaleb, Michele Britt, Jeri Wimer, Ron Schmutz, Sandy Wilson and Margaret Shaver.

Julie Rohrig reported the checking account has a balance of \$4,302.32.

The following decisions were made: After Prom will be held at All Star Lanes in Salina. Julie will make this reservation. Kirk will work on getting a letter ready to be sent to area businesses asking for donations. Scott will call to reserve the money machine. Margaret will contact the business teacher to find out if his class can help create a mailing list, as has been done in the past. We will plan to stuff envelopes at the October meeting. Several fund raising ideas were talked about, but no action was taken. The next meeting will be held at the high school cafeteria on Monday, the October 15th at 6:30.

Submitted by Julie Rohrig

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check for changes at www.ellsaline.org.

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|---------|---|------------|--|
| Oct. 1 | NO SCHOOL—Teacher Workday | Oct. 18 | 9:00 Starbase |
| Oct. 1 | 6:00 HS JV FB @ Solomon | Oct. 18 | 4:00 MS VB Trinity Catholic @ ES |
| Oct. 2 | 4:00 HS VB @ Inman (Canton/Galva) | Oct. 18 | 6:00 MS FB Trinity Catholic @ ES |
| Oct. 3 | FFA @ Manhattan | Oct. 18 | End of Quarter |
| Oct. 3 | 6:30 KU Honors Dinner @ Salina Country Club | Oct. 19 | NO SCHOOL—Teacher Workday |
| Oct. 4 | Elementary Fall Pictures | Oct. 19 | 7:00 HS FB @ Bennington |
| Oct. 4 | 4:00 MS VB Canton/Galva @ ES | Oct. 20 | TBA HS VB Sub-State |
| Oct. 4 | 6:00 MS FB Canton/Galva @ ES | Oct. 22 | 7:00 MS/HS Fall Concert |
| Oct. 4 | 7:00 HS HOA Vocal Honors @ Berean Academy | Oct. 23 | TBA HOA League MS VB @ Moundridge |
| Oct. 5 | MS/HS Fall Pictures | Oct. 24-27 | National FFA Convention @ Indianapolis |
| Oct. 5 | 7:00 HS FB @ Moundridge | Oct. 24 | MS BB Practice begins |
| Oct. 6 | 3:30-7:00 CPTA Carnival @ ESEL | Oct. 24 | United Nations Day |
| Oct. 8 | 5:00 HS JV VB @ Sacred Heart | Oct. 25 | 9:00 Starbase |
| Oct. 8 | 6:00 HS Fr VB Inman @ ES | Oct. 25 | 6:30-8:00 EL Sock Hop |
| Oct. 8 | 6:00 HS JV FB Moundridge @ ES | Oct. 25 | 7:00 HS FB @ Belleville |
| Oct. 8 | 7:00 BOE Meeting @ ESDO | Oct. 26 | TBA HS VB State |
| Oct. 8 | Columbus Day—Observed | Oct. 27 | ACT Test Date |
| Oct. 9 | 4:00 HS VB @ Peabody (Inman) | Oct. 27 | TBA HS VB State |
| Oct. 11 | FFA @ Concordia | Oct. 30 | TBA HS FB Bi-District |
| Oct. 11 | 4:00 MS VB Inman @ ES | Oct. 31 | 8:30 EL Halloween Parade/Parties |
| Oct. 11 | 6:00 MS FB Inman @ ES | Oct. 31 | Halloween |
| Oct. 11 | Columbus Day | | |
| Oct. 12 | 7:00 HS FB Minneapolis @ ES | | |
| Oct. 12 | Senior Parent Night | | |
| Oct. 13 | TBA MS "B" VB @ Minneapolis | | |
| Oct. 13 | TBA HS VB HOA League | | |
| Oct. 15 | FFA @ Beloit | | |
| Oct. 15 | 5:00 HS JV VB @ Minneapolis (Bennington) | | |
| Oct. 15 | 6:00 HS JV FB @ Minneapolis | | |
| Oct. 15 | 6:30 CPTA Meeting @ ESEL | | |
| Oct. 15 | 6:30 After Prom Meeting @ ESHS | | |
| Oct. 16 | 5:00 HS VB @ Bennington (Minneapolis) | | |

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Bob, Jeannie, Ayla and Kaleb Beaugh's phone number is 643-4135.

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