

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

We are now very close to "crossing home plate" for this school year. By the time you receive this we will have less than 3 weeks left until we have crossed home plate, the final score will have been recorded and school will be over for the 2011-2012 school year. It seems like such a short time ago that we were just stepping into the batter's box. This has truly been an enjoyable, positive, successful year for students, staff and patrons alike.

One of the areas that have been a major focus of the past several years for all schools is that of the State Reading and Math Assessments. In addition, this year our students also took the State Science and Social Studies Assessments. Considerable time, effort and resources have again gone into preparing our students to be successful when taking them. We have recently finished taking those assessments and from looking at the preliminary results it appears that the efforts of everyone has paid off. Preliminary results show that the district as a whole met the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goals on **ALL** assessments. Congratulations and thank you to everyone that played an important role in achieving the goal. Without the effort, support and encouragement of students, parents and teachers all working together this would not have been possible. That is just one illustration of what makes Ell-Saline USD 307 such a great place!

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 not only in recognizing their accomplishments of this year at the Awards Night on May 10 but also to share in their celebration of the past thirteen years with their graduation exercises on May 12. For our 8th graders we will get to hear of their accomplishments of this year and to challenge them to not only continue that, but also to build on it throughout their next four years in high school, during their Awards Night on May 17. 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 are taking place. Our preliminary count of kindergartners for next year is 34. It is with great anticipation and excitement that we look forward to being able to offer our first year of All-Day Kindergarten. We have been interviewing candidates, hiring new staff members and beginning to order necessary supplies. We are balancing next year's needs between this, and next year's, budgets.

As we do those things this year, it is again with a great deal of uncertainty about next year's budget. Although the revenue projections for the remainder of this year and for next year are up by a total of approximately \$450 million it appears that schools and other social programs may not receive any increase. Last week the legislature returned to Topeka to finish its work for the year—and there is much for them to finish. There are currently income tax reduction bills in committee that would reduce state revenue over the next few years by a total of at least \$3.8 billion which in just three years will leave the state with a deficit ending balance meaning again greatly reducing funding for all programs. More positively, there is also a bipartisan bill in committee that will provide for restoring funding to schools that has been reduced in the past years. **I urge you to contact your legislators and encourage them to 1) VOTE NO on any tax proposals that compromise the education of our children and grandchildren and 2) VOTE YES on the bipartisan school funding plan that begins restoring the investment in Kansas kids.** Action is anticipated to take place on these items this week.

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.

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. Tom Arpke
Docking State Office Building
7th Floor
915 SW Harrison
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7643
tom.arpke@house.ks.gov

Rep. Charles Roth
State Capitol Building
Room 174-W
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7689
charles.roth@house.ks.gov

Rep. Steven Johnson
Docking State Office Building
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915 SW Harrison
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7696
steven.johnson@house.ks.gov

The Cardinal Foundation for Educational Excellence
Celebrates
"COWBOY UP FOR CARDINAL KIDS"
JUNE 1, 2012

Time is getting close! Tickets are still available! PLAN TO ATTEND!! Come be part of the action! **Friday, June 1**, is the date of the Third Annual Cardinal Foundation Endowment Dinner and Auction. The theme for this year's social event is "**COWBOY UP FOR CARDINAL KIDS**" and this year it will be hosted at the beautiful C & W Ranch in their newly renovated barn. So dust off your boots and join us for the fun!! The social hour and silent auction will begin at 6:00. Dinner will be served at 7:00 with the endowment auction starting at 8:00.

Invitations have been mailed but everyone is invited. The invitation list is NOT limited to the alumni of Ell-Saline. It is open to businesses, Foundation supporters, family members of past and present students, friends, EVERYONE that wants to enjoy a fun evening and support the Ell-Saline schools! However, seating capacity is limited to a maximum of 150 participants, so you will need to get your tickets and reserve your seating soon. Individual tickets are available for \$25.00 each, which includes the meal and gains entrance to both the silent and live auctions. A preferred seating reserved table of eight can be purchased by a business or a group for \$250.00.

The Cardinal Foundation for Educational Excellence was established to provide scholarships to teachers and sponsors for special classroom needs and activities not provided in the district budget. At a time when the State of Kansas has had to make massive cuts in school funding, the Cardinal Foundation has become even more important in the educational support of our students. Previous scholarship awards have been presented to support such activities as the bullying prevention program at both schools. Hands on math manipulatives were purchased for the elementary school to help young students better understand new math concepts. When the wildlife management class was established at the high school, funds were used to purchase taxidermy equipment. Robotics materials have been purchased for use in high school science classes and Science Olympiad activities. The number of projects funded each year is determined by the amount of money that has been generated. To date, over \$28,000 has been spent by the Foundation to further the educational opportunities of Ell-Saline students.

Those wishing to donate an item for the auction should contact one of the Foundation Board members soon. Ideas for the auction are limitless and could include such items as: quilts, furniture, group parties, catered meals, game or concert tickets, an overnight stay at a bed and breakfast, college or pro sports paraphernalia, theatre tickets, gift baskets, etc. If you, your family, your business, or a group of friends would like to donate an item for the auction, that would be great. Cash donations will be combined to purchase auction items.

Contact any Cardinal Foundation Board of Directors for tickets, information, or to make a donation. Members include Chairman Jamie Bradley, Secretary Larry Laas, Treasurer Kathy White, Nikki Davenport, Mitch Drees, Michelle Griffin, Marty Kramer, Tom Oml, and Superintendent Jerry Minneman.

This will be a fun-filled evening you WON'T want to miss!! Check us out on our website at www.ellsaline.org (click on District Office/Cardinal Foundation) for information about some of our previous grants. If you have questions, ask us on Facebook or e-mail us at cardinalfoundation@ellsaline.org.

May 2012

ELL-SALINE CARDINALS

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

1 CRISPITO
& Cheese Sauce
Whole Kernel Corn
Banana Half
Bread Stick
Milk

2 Elem- CHICKEN LEG
MS/HS CHICKEN PATTY
Potatoes & Gravy
Broccoli Florets
Orange Slice
Roll & Jelly, Milk

3 MAC & CHEESE
Hot Dog/Smokies
Baby Carrots
Apple Quarters
Cake, Milk Choice

4 Elem-LAZAGNA
MS/HS-ITALIAN DUNKERS
Tossed Spinach Salad
Diced Peaches
Garlic Bread
Milk Choice

7 CHICKEN NUGGETS
Seasoned Rice
Baby Carrots
Mandarin Oranges
Egg Roll
Milk Choice

8 TOSTADA ?
Lettuce & Salsa
Apple Sauce
Garlic Bread
Choc Chip Cookie Bar
Milk Choice

9 TONY'S PIZZA
Tossed Spinach Salad
Pineapple Chunks
Bread Stick
Cold Treat
Milk Choice

11 SUB SANDWICH
Lettuce & Tomato
Broccoli Florets
Red Grapes
Sun Chips
Milk Choice

14 BISCUITS & GRAVY
SAUSAGE PATTIE
Tri- Tater
Fresh Broccoli
Orange Slice
Milk Choice

15 ELL-SALINE PIZZA
Tossed Romaine Mix
Pineapple Chunks
Pudding
Milk Choice

16 CORN DOGS
Baked Beans
Tri Tater, Tots or Fries ?
Fresh Fruit
Bread Stick
Milk Choice

17 Elem- Sack Lunch
PBJ Sandwich, Chips,
Apple Sauce, Baby Carrots
Graham Snack, Milk
MS/HS-Hamburger/Bun
Baby Carrots, Chips
Apple Quarters, Milk

School News

21 HAVE A FUN
SUMMER!

22

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Last Day OF School
No Breakfast or
Lunch Served.

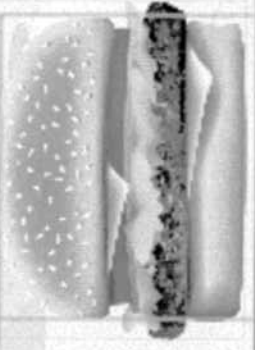
School Nutrition
Appreciation Week
May 7-11
Express Your
appreciation to Our
School Breakfast and
Lunch crews.

28

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Ell-Saline Parents as Teachers

GET OUT! This Spring Discover the World Right Outside Your Backdoor.

Use this glorious spring weather as the perfect opportunity to grab the kids, turn off the TV and get outdoors! There is so much to discover right outside your back door. The birds are singing and preparing their new homes. You can help them build their nests by hanging a few bits of string or yarn from a tree branch. The birds will use your snippets to weave fanciful color into their nests.

Pale green leaves appear as the trees leaf out. Soon the maple tree will send its "helicopters" twirling to the ground. Who doesn't remember spending hours as a child playing with this simple toy?

Insects gather to suck nectar from the tender blossoms. You can attract butterflies and bees with the sweet nectar of clover, allyssum, honeysuckle, lavender,

petunias, phlox, and verbena. Watch for new visitors as your flowers begin to bloom.

Plant some seeds in a flower pot or backyard garden. Runner beans are fun for kids to observe as they develop roots, tiny shoots, and then a stalk with flowers and beans. Dig up a few at various stages to examine.

Put on rain boots and stomp in puddles. What child doesn't love doing something that is normally considered off limits?

Even the youngest children enjoy collecting mementos on a nature walk. Make a bracelet by wrapping a strip of masking tape loosely around your wrist with the stick side out. Press pebbles, bark, and flowers onto the tape.

Remember the outdoor games you played as a child? Teach

your children to play four square, hopscotch, I Spy, kickball, statue and Red Rover.

During a full moon, take a flashlight walk. Be sure to have an adult along for safety. Look up at the stars and listen to animals. Purchase or rent a telescope. Campout and make s'mores in your own backyard.

Take a bike ride, fly a kite, have a picnic, take photographs. The list is endless. Everything you need for an afternoon of fun is right outside your door. It time to get going and get out.

About the Authors: Rondi Hillstrom Davis and Janell Sewall Oakes are co-authors of the award-winning book Together: Creating Family Traditions. Check our their website: www.togetherparenting.com

Smoky Hill Education Service Center

May 2012

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

Birthdays & Holidays!

- ☺ Mother's Day May 13th
- ☺ Tristan turns 3 June 8th
- ☺ Father's Day June 17th
- ☺ Luke turns 3 June 19th

Welcome to PAT!

- Brinlee
- Reid
- Eian

Playgroups

- May 5th
Storyhour @ Zoo 10am
- May 7th
Storytime @ Ell-Saline Elem 10am
-

Fun Finger Plays

FLOWER FINGERPLAY

A hand is a bud
Closed up tight (close hand into a fist)
Without a tiny
Speck of light.
Then slowly the petals
Open for me (slowly open hand, one finger at a time)
And here is a beautiful
Flower I see!

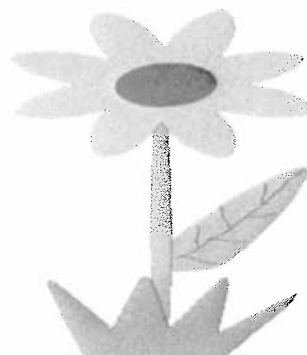
Traditional

I MADE A MAY BASKET

Tune: "A Tisket, A Tasket"

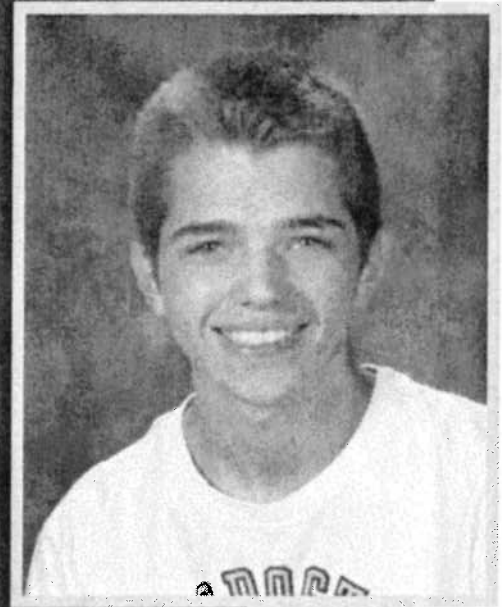
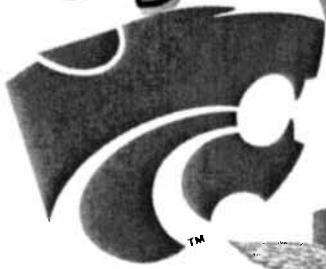
A tisket, a tasket,
I made a May basket.
I filled it up with flowers to say,
I hope you have a nice May day.
A tisket, a tasket,
I made a May basket.
I put it on your door today,
Then rang the bell and ran away.

Author: Jean Warren



April High School Student of the Month

Tyler Cates



Tyler Cates is a senior at Ell-Saline High School and holds a grade point average of 3.7. He is the son of Kirk and Connie Cates. He has one brother, Neil Cates. At school he is apart of FFA, NHS, and Big Brother/ Big Sisters. He attends youth group in Salina and is an employee at Waters/ True Value. He enjoys FFA and hanging out with friends out of school. His plans after High School are to attend Hutchinson Community College and K-State to major in Horticulture and Green House Management.

March High School Student of the Month

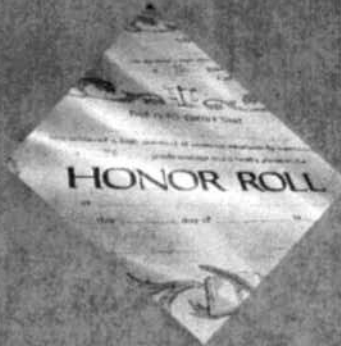
Mason DeArvil



Mason DeArvil is a 10th grader at Ell-Saline High school and holds a 3.8 GPA. His parents are Sheldon and Wendy DeArvil and he has two siblings, Sierra and Sydney DeArvil. For school activities he participates in Football, Basketball, Baseball, Pals, Band, FFA, FCA, and Friends of Rachel. He participates in Summer/ Fall basketball, Big Brothers/ Big Sisters, and Church. His hobbies are sports and watching sporting activities. He plans to get a degree in Sports Management, but is unsure of where he would like to attend.

April Middle School Student of the Month

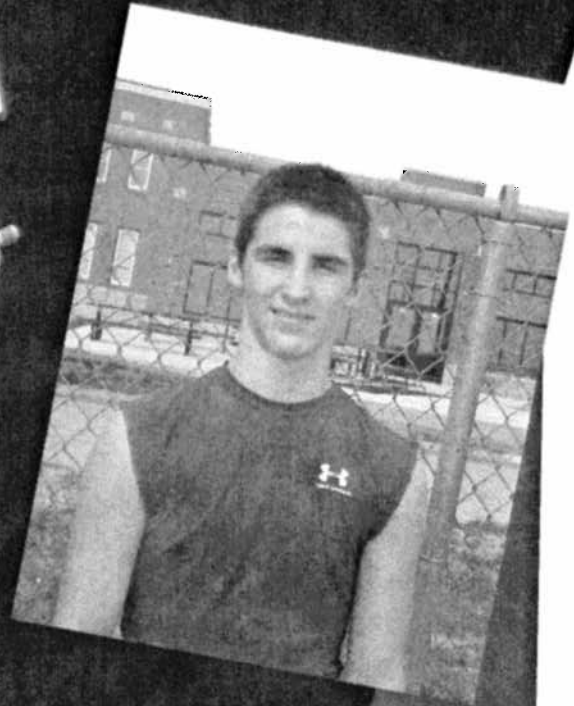
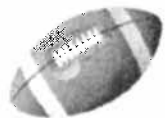
Katelynn Adam



Katelynn Adam is an 8th grade middle school student at Ell– Saline Middle School. She is the daughter of Brandee and Eric Adam and has three siblings, Karter, Karee, and Kelsie Adam. At school she is involved in FCA, Basketball, Track, Volleyball, Hoops for Heart, PALS, and Honor Roll. Her hobbies are sports and hanging out with friends and family. After high school she plans to attend Law School at Washburn University.

March Middle School Student of the Month

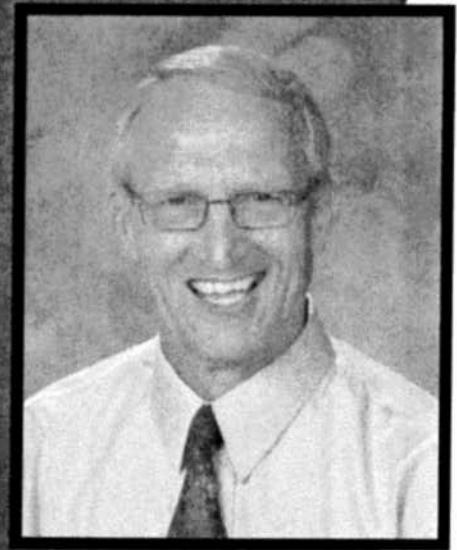
Adrian Castelli



Adrian Castelli is an 8th grader at Eil- Saline. He holds a 3.8 GPA. His parents are Brenda and Jim Castelli and he has five siblings, Kirsten, Kody, Kylee, Kenda, and Emma. At school he participates in Basketball, Football, Track, FCA, Band, and is a member of student council. At Brookville he is a member of the Youth Group. He enjoys hunting, playing basketball and football, knee boarding, and hanging out with friends. In the future he plans to go to KU and play basketball while studying to get a degree as an athletic trainer.

April Staff Member of the Month

Mr. Laas



Mr. Laas is the guidance counselor at Ell-Saline. He sponsors Ell-Saline's Big Brothers/ Big Sisters Program and is the Assistant sponsor of FCA. He is a member of the Cardinal Foundation Board, the Saline County Fair Board, and a Deacon at Salina Heights Christian Church. He loves to go out and support Ell-Saline and K-State sports. He also enjoys gardening, canning, showing 4-H lambs, and working with 4-H families. He enjoys counseling because the days are never the same and he likes to help students set goals. In the future he plans to retire to travel and spend LOTS of time with his grandson.

March Staff Member of the Month

Terry King



The March Staff Member of the Month is Terry King. Mr. King has been teaching Physical Education and

Health and Weights for the past

14 years at Ell-Saline, and 35 years as a teacher. He is also the Football and Track coach and leads Hoops for Heart. He enjoys helping out the less fortunate with fix-up jobs, as well as fishing, hunting, building and gardening. He would like to see his children get their college education and continue teaching for another few years. When he retires, he wants to buy a Winnebago and travel.

