

**NOVEMBER 11 BOARD MEETING REPORT**

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

7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

AUDIENCE WITH THE BOARD: None

**REPORTS**

2012-2013 Fiscal Audit – Craig Dassow and Amy Dauer of Clubine & Rettele reported the findings of last years' audit. The financial records were all in order and no significant deficiencies were noted. They commented on the cooperation of the District Office staff (Treasurer Ann Krone and Clerk Susan Rose) in the manner that they provided the necessary records and answered questions.

BOE – Jeff Parker reminded the board about the SHESC Legislative Luncheon on Thursday, November 14.

Mrs. Sprinkle – Her report included: information learned at the Next Generation Assessment and the KSDE Fall Assessment conferences; staff are visiting area schools to learn more about the use of iPads in instruction; and the Kansas State Statute 72-6439 in which it states that the State Board of Education has the authority to establish curriculum standards and to provide for statewide assessments in the core academic areas.

Mrs. Wildeman – Her report included: three volleyball players being named to the HOA All-League team; the HS FACS class is cooking meals for the monthly Ell-Saline Lions Club; state Cross Country results; and highlights from the KSDE Fall Assessment Conference she attended.

Mr. Minneman – His report included: preliminary results of the KSDE Audit performed last week and it appears that we will be able to republish our budget and gain approximately \$37,000 in budget authority; read one thank you note; and dates that he will be attending meetings out of the district before the next meeting.

**BUSINESS**

Boys' Golf Request—This item was back on the agenda from last month with the additional information requested by the board. At the present time there are 14 students interested in participating this spring. An individual offered to anonymously donate monies to cover the costs of the program for approximately 6- or 7-years. The board approved the request to start a boys' golf team this spring and to accept the anonymous donation.

CPTA Fundraiser Request—The request by CPTA to hold a year-round gift card fundraiser was approved.

FFA Out-of-State Travel Request—The request by Mr. Weis for him and 12 students to attend the National Western Livestock Show in Denver from January 18-20 was approved.

Approve Hew Hires—The following were approved: Cary Wilson as HS Asst. Girls' Basketball Coach and Norm Jennings as MS Asst. Boys' Basketball Coach.

Act on Bus Bids—Since the used 2012 bus that was approved at the October board meeting was no longer available, the bid submitted last month from Kansas Truck of \$80,717.00 for a new 2015 65-passenger Blue Bird bus with an extended warranty and no trade-in was approved.

Board Policy Updates—The 1<sup>st</sup> reading of several policies was held. Since this was the 1<sup>st</sup> reading no action could be taken and they will be brought back to the December board meeting for action.

KASB Legislative Platform and Delegate Assembly Representative—The platform was reviewed and the consensus was that USD 307 supports all of the recommendations with the exception of two. Those are Teacher Negotiations and Teacher Due Process. The USD 307 position is that no change is needed in the current statutes. Jeff Parker volunteered to be the board's Delegate Assembly Representative.

Kansas College and Career Ready Standards—The administration shared additional information on the new standards and assessments. KSDE staff will be taking to the State Board of Education in December the recommendation that Smarter Balance be the assessment for grades 3-8 with other options available for grades 9-12. The board passed Resolution 514 "urging Kansas legislators to preserve the current standards and educational path of the State of Kansas Public Schools". This resolution will soon be placed on the district web site.

There were no Executive Sessions.

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office in Brookville. If anyone wishes to have an item added to the agenda, please contact President Jeff Parker, Vice-President Marty Kramer or the District Office two weeks prior to the meeting.



# Band & Choir Results



EVERY YEAR, KMEA (KANSAS MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION) HAS DISTRICT LEVEL COMPETITIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL BAND AND VOCAL STUDENTS. ALL MUSICIANS IN CLASSES 1A-6A COMPETE AGAINST EACH OTHER, SO OUR KIDS ARE COMPETING AGAINST MUSICIANS FROM SALINA SOUTH, MANHATTAN HIGH SCHOOL, SALINA CENTRAL, ETC. THIS YEAR WE HAD 5 QUALIFY IN BAND AND 1 QUALIFY IN VOCAL. THEY WILL REHEARSE AND PERFORM AT MANHATTAN HIGH SCHOOL ON DECEMBER 7.

BY QUALIFYING AT DISTRICT, THESE MUSICIANS ARE NOW ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE FOR A SPOT IN THE STATE-WIDE BAND OR CHOIR THAT REHEARSES AND PERFORMS IN WICHITA'S CENTURY II.

**BAND STUDENTS:**

- SPENCER KOCHANOWSKI – 1<sup>ST</sup> PART, 1<sup>ST</sup> CHAIR — ALTO SAXOPHONE
- MORGAN PARKER – 1<sup>ST</sup> PART, 1<sup>ST</sup> CHAIR — TIMPANI
- RILEY DREES – 1<sup>ST</sup> PART, 2<sup>ND</sup> CHAIR — TENOR SAXOPHONE
- LEVI HOLCOM – 2<sup>ND</sup> PART, 4<sup>TH</sup> CHAIR — CLARINET
- TORILYNN MISER – 4<sup>TH</sup> PART, 1<sup>ST</sup> CHAIR — FRENCH HORN

**CHOIR STUDENT:**

- GARRETT SCHUMAN — TENOR VOCALIST

WE ALSO HAVE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE NORTH CENTRAL KMEA HONOR BAND AND CHOIR IN JANUARY AT JUNCTION CITY MIDDLE SCHOOL.

**BAND STUDENTS:**

- AVERY BRADLEY – 1<sup>ST</sup> PART, 1<sup>ST</sup> CHAIR — TENOR SAXOPHONE
- MADELYN HAYES – 1<sup>ST</sup> PART, 2<sup>ND</sup> CHAIR — CLARINET
- LYNDSI WEEMS – 1<sup>ST</sup> PART, 4<sup>TH</sup> CHAIR — CLARINET
- COLTON WHITE – 1<sup>ST</sup> PART, 4<sup>TH</sup> CHAIR — ALTO SAXOPHONE

**CHOIR STUDENTS:**

- ASHLEY AKIN
- FAITH WOLF
- REIS JENNINGS
- DYLAN WHITE

*Congratulations & Good Luck!*

## BRANSON GETAWAY!!



Congratulations to Clint Loder, winner of the Cardinal Foundation Branson Getaway!

The getaway for the 2 weekend night or 3 weekday night stay in a deluxe one bedroom accommodation at a Wyndham resort in Branson, MO, was drawn at half-time of the final high school home football game Friday, October 25. Thank you to the Ell-Saline patron who generously donated the "Getaway".

## 1/2 HOG RAFFLE WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO DEE ALVAREZ AND PAUL FERRELL, WINNERS OF THE ELL-SALINE HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS 1/2 HOG FUNDRAISER.



\*A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO GRANDPA DAN PETERSON (SYDNEY OMLI'S GRANDPA) FOR DONATING THE HOG, IT WAS MUCH APPRECIATED!!

# ***SRO Corner!***

Dear parent of a teenager,

Hey there. It's me, the SRO, the Jolly Rancher Man, or Deputy Hammonds. I just wanted to take a few minutes and share some thoughts with you about your student. I know that no two people will ever see things entirely the same way, but as one who works with students on a regular basis, I just wanted to say a few words that might encourage you and help you with your teenager.

Before you get the idea that this is an "us versus them" sort of letter, let me first say I want to encourage you to keep up the good work. I know that at the very core, we all want the very best for your student. I know that you are working hard, trying to balance family obligations and work commitments, and doing your best to mentor and love your student. Keep that up! The amount of influence you have in the life of your student is remarkable, so use that time wisely.

If you'd allow me, I would love to share some thoughts with you as we work together to encourage your student as they journey through this period of their life.

First, let me encourage you to stay involved in every aspect of your student's life. I often hear parents say that they don't want to convey to their student that they don't trust them. May I say with all due respect that your job as a parent is not to trust your student, but to raise them. As a parent of two girls and one boy, I know how easy it is to let them do their own thing, to not worry about what they are watching, what friends they are spending time with, and the way they are behaving around others. It takes hard work to stay involved, vigilant, and watchful. But time is short, so invest the time, put in the hard work and guide and mentor them. Trusting them comes later.

Secondly, let me encourage you to be a student of your student. Your teen is navigating a gauntlet of trials, temptations, social networks, interactions, pressures, and more. Be aware of your student's struggles, their strengths, and the areas where they need more encouragement. Study them, stay informed, and know what they are facing. It does not make you "un-cool" that you have no clue what Snapchat or Kik is, or that you don't know what your student is posting on Instagram or Facebook. And furthermore, let me just say that if you don't have some sort of filters or accountability software on your student's phone, tablet, and computer, you are playing with fire. Stay informed, and know your student better than the social networks do.

Probably the most important thing I would challenge you with is to avoid being "friends" with your student. I see a lot of parents who want to be "best buddies" with their teen, and I beg you not to fall into that trap. Should you have a loving, playful, deep relationship with your student? Of course! But your student needs you to set boundaries, to clearly establish right and wrong, to set an example, and to train and equip them for real life. The LAST thing they need is more friends. Check their social networks; they already have over 1,000 friends. Be their parent – that's most important.

Most of all, know that I'm with you, I'm rooting for you, your student, and your family. I want nothing more in life than for your student to know the joy, the hope, and the peace that comes from living a full life by making great decisions in everything that they do. We're in this together. I'm excited about what is going on in the life of your student, and I know you are going to play a huge role in the future decisions that your student makes. Thanks for trusting me as we partner together!

Trust me; I know being a parent is not easy but when we take the time to invest and be involved in their lives, you will be rewarded one day by knowing that you had a huge part in your child's success!



# Ell-Saline Wellness Committee News



## Honoring the Professionalism and Commitment of Child Nutrition Programs

Becky Walters and Susan Reiff were recently awarded the Bronze Level Certificate and Pin for completing 30 hours of School Nutrition Classes and Training. This Award is given through Child Nutrition and Wellness of the Kansas Department of Education. Thank you Becky and Susan for your efforts to expand your Food Service knowledge and skills as you serve the Ell-Saline Students and Staff .

## The Ell-Saline Wellness Committee receives The Kansas Sunflower Spotlight award for “Promoting A Healthier School Environment”.

In September of 2012 the Ell-Saline Wellness Committee applied for and received a KSDE grant called Family Fun and Fitness. With the funding, required itinerary and suggestions from the grant, the committee joined with the CPTA in their “Go For the Gold” Carnival with learning games that promote healthy eating, My Plate requirements and Physical timed and skill games for all age levels.

Becky Walters, Chair of the Wellness Committee accepted the award on October 19, 2013 at the School Nutrition Association of Kansas Annual Conference in Topeka, KS. The award was given by Child Nutrition and Wellness of KSDE.

## Ell-Saline Wellness Committee-

You might say, Ell-Saline Wellness Committee, I didn't know we had one. Your Wellness committee is busy behind the scenes. Applying for grants to help purchase Elementary/MS/HS PE supplies, for the Elementary “Body Walk” and Community “Family Fun and Fitness”. They have also applied and received the Power Panther Pals Grants for the first and fourth grades and After School to learn to Eat Right and Play Hard. The wellness Committee has encouraged staff wellness with walking activities and healthy challenges.

This spring the Wellness Committee will be encouraging our Ell-Saline Staff to join in Power Panther Professional. Staff will be challenged to create a personalized nutrition and Physical activity plan with tips and support to make healthier choices.

Ell-Saline Staff- - get ready for a fun upcoming Wellness Challenge.

Your Ell-Saline Wellness Committee,

Becky Walters, Susie Omli, Tami Jensen, Delisa Nelson, Nathan Burgess, Margaret Shaver, Janelle Stelter and Jerry Minneman



# November

## Student/Staff of the Month



Catelyn Richards is our November high school student of the month! She is a sophomore with a 4.0 grade point average. Catelyn is active within the school, as she participates in volleyball, track, BIGS, Friends of Rachel executive committee, STUCO, FFA, FCA, and Business Professionals of America. In her free time, Catelyn volunteers at the Salina Regional Health Center and attends Brookville Methodist Church. She enjoys spending time with friends and family, helping out on the farm, and last but not least, reading! Catelyn plans on attending K-State and pursuing a career in the medical field

Joel Came is our November middle school student of the month! He is in 7th grade and is the son of Chad and Stacy Came. His siblings include Kyle Came and Shelly Ireton. Joel plays football and basketball. He also participates in band and PALS. Someday Joel intends on going to college at K-State and is at this point undecided on his major. Congrats on your nomination, Joel!



Joan Grover is our staff member of the month! This is her seventh year as a band/choir teacher. She is in charge of pep band, all school concerts, honors band and choir, as well as contests and band trips. Joan is the director of her church choir, plays in the municipal band, and is an assistant pianist within her church, as well. She enjoys reading, cross-stitching, playing piano, and spending time with her grandchildren. Someday Joan hopes to travel all around the country, focusing on Civil War battle grounds!

# Reading at the dinner table!

The dinner table can be a great place to learn about the day and hear your children read. Put a fun bowl in the center of the table. On small pieces of paper write scenarios or questions you've always wanted to ask your kiddos, but can't seem to find the time to discuss them. Examples:

- What do you do when you don't understand something at school?
- If someone asks you to come to their car and have a piece of candy what do you do?
- Who is your closest friend at school right now and why?
- What is your favorite thing about yourself?



Each night take turns reading one out loud and sharing around the table. You get a chance to hear your children read and interact with them in a whole new way!

## Happy Retirement Susan Rose!



Susan Rose, Board Clerk retired after 27 years of dedicated service to the USD 307 School District.

On Friday, October 25, a Retirement Reception was held in the MS/HS Library for Susan Rose. Many former and current board members, faculty and staff attended with many memories shared and well wishes given. Susan had been with the district for 27 years serving initially in the dual role of Happy Corner Secretary/Board Clerk. As the district grew and the responsibilities of each of those roles expanded, that position eventually was split into two and her sole role became that of Board Clerk which she served until her retirement effective October 31. The Board of Education, faculty and staff thank her for all of her years of service to the students of Ell-Saline USD 307 and wish her the best in her retirement. Thank You Susan!

# Looking for a great gift idea???



Here are several, plus you'll be supporting your school.....



The Ell-Saline Booster Club has this and MUCH, MUCH MORE for sale.

To see everything available and print an order form, please visit [www.ellsaline.org](http://www.ellsaline.org) and click on the Booster Club section. Please turn orders into the school office (MS/HS or Elem.) or mail order forms to:

Cher Richards, 8285 W. Schilling Rd., Salina, KS 67401.

Any questions, please contact Cher Richards @ 785-822-2776.

**ORDER DEADLINE—December 6th**

**THANK YOU** for supporting Ell-Saline!!!!

## EI-Saline USD 307

District Office  
412 E. Anderson P.O. Box 157  
Brookville, KS 67425-0157  
(785) 225-6813

Middle/High School  
414 E. Anderson P.O. Box 97  
Brookville, KS 67425-0097  
(785) 225-6633

Elementary School  
1757 N. Halstead Rd.  
Salina, KS 67401  
(785) 827-8891

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



### An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency

The EI-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.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check for changes at [www.ellsaline.org](http://www.ellsaline.org)

Dec. 2	5:00 HS BB Gatorade Scrimmage @ ES	Dec. 14	TBA HS BB Tournament @ Lincoln
Dec. 2	6:00 HS Winter Sports Parent Mtg.	Dec. 17	4:30 HS BB Canton/Galva @ ES
Dec. 3	9:00 HS Winter Sports Pictures	Dec. 20	8:20 EL Christmas Parties
Dec. 3	9:00 HS Yearbook Pictures	Dec. 20	4:30 HS BB Little River @ ES
Dec. 3	4:00 MS BB Marion @ ES	Dec. 20	Fall State Recognition
Dec. 4	9:00 FFA @ Manhattan	Dec. 20	End of Quarter/Semester
Dec. 5	4:00 MS BB @ Inman	Dec. 21	First Day of Winter
Dec. 6	4:30 HS BB @ Trinity Catholic	Dec. 23	NO SCHOOL - Teacher Workday
Dec. 7	8:00 HS KMEA @ Manhattan	Dec. 23 - 27	KSHSAA Non-Practice Days
Dec. 9	4:00 MS BB Trinity Catholic @ ES	Dec. 23 - Jan. 5	Winter Break
Dec. 9	5:45 HS BB Tournament @ Lincoln	Dec. 24	Christmas Eve
Dec. 9	7:00 BOE @ ESDO	Dec. 25	Christmas Day
Dec. 12	4:00 MS BB @ Sedgwick	Dec. 31	New Year's Eve
Dec. 13	7:00 HS BB Tournament @ Lincoln	Jan. 1	New Year's Day
Dec. 14	ACT Test Date	Jan. 6	Classes Resume





# COMMON CORE CORNER

## Kansas College and Career Ready

This month's corner will be devoted to answering questions that have continued to come up about how the standards were developed and what role the federal government plays. Next month the corner will be devoted to looking at samples of the actual Common Core Standards.

### **How were the Common Core standards developed?**

The effort to draft common standards was launched in 2009. The National Governor's Association (NGA) and Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) led the initiative with the guidance of an advisory group including experts from Achieve, Inc., a bipartisan, nonprofit organization that helps states raise academic standards; ACT, Inc.; the College Board; the National Association of State Boards of Education; and the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association. The standards development was privately funded with major support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other foundations. No federal dollars or officials were involved.

The standards were drafted by working groups of experts aided by feedback groups including scholars, researchers, teachers and assessment experts. To see a full list of the various Development and Feedback Groups of experts visit [www.nga.org](http://www.nga.org). When you're there, go to the "Newsroom" tab and do a search for "Common Core". Two drafts of the standards were made available for public review in which nearly 10,000 comments were received and considered.

### **What role does the federal government play?**

While the federal government was not involved in developing the Common Core standards, it has supported the effort in other ways. The U.S. Department of Education encouraged the adoption of "college- and career-ready standards" and aligned assessments in state applications for Race to the Top funds (RTT). To earn points, the standards needed to be "common to a significant number of states" or approved by a "state network of institutions of higher education" who would certify that state standards are college- and career-ready. States meeting this criterion could earn a possible 70 out of 500 total points. At least 40 states applied for the competitive RTTT grants; to date 19 states have received them. Kansas did apply in the initial round of RTTT grants. However, Kansas did not receive the grant and has chosen not to apply in subsequent rounds.

Similar provisions were built into applications for No Child Left Behind (NCLB) waivers. Neither RTTT nor NCLB waivers explicitly calls for the Common Core standards. (Virginia, for example, has its own state standards and received a waiver.) However, adopting the Common Core clearly gave states an easy way to earn college- and career-ready points.

The Department is also the main source of funding for the development of Common Core assessments. In September 2010, the Department awarded a combined \$346 million to two state consortia to design and field-test "next generation" assessments aligned to the new standards. The first, the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College & Careers (PARCC) includes 18 states plus the District of Columbia and is headed by Achieve, Inc., which was also a key player in drafting the standards. The second, the 25-state SMARTER BALANCED Assessment Consortium, is headquartered at the Washington state department of education. Both consortia expect to deliver the first assessments in 2014-15. Our Kansas State Board of Education will be making its decision in December as to what assessments will be used.

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By the time you are reading this we will be knocking on the door to enter December. Normally that means that winter is quickly approaching and with that comes the possibility of snow, ice, and general dangerous weather conditions. This year, however, winter already came last week! If those conditions happen on a scheduled school day then a decision needs to be made regarding whether or not to have school. Ideally the decision can be made the night before so that parents have more time to make arrangements for their child for the day. However, the weather does not always give us that much advance warning and a decision isn't made until early in the morning. An attempt will always be made to make a decision by 6:00 a.m. but conditions can worsen at any time. To help in making what appears to be the best decision we check the radar, weather predictions, current road conditions and what other neighboring school districts are planning. Safety of students, staff and parents is the primary consideration in making a decision. If travel conditions are not good at the time of our normal school beginning or if there is a strong likelihood that the weather will deteriorate during the day so that it will not be safe to get everybody home, then school will likely be called off for the day. It is much more difficult to dismiss school earlier than normal than it is to call off for the entire day. If the weather prediction is for dangerous weather or if it is "not looking good out there" a *SchoolMessenger* call will be made so that word gets out to everyone very quickly. Also, tune to radio stations KSAL (1150 AM), KSAJ (98.5 FM), KZBZ (104.9 FM), KY94 (93.7 FM), KINA (910 AM), KSKG (99.9 FM), KILS (92.7 FM), KQNS (95.5 FM) and TV stations KSNW (Channel 3), KAKE (Channel 10) and KWCH (Channel 12). Each of those stations will be contacted as soon as any decision is made to modify the normal school day because of weather conditions. If the decision is made for an early dismissal after school has already started for the day, we will also have the notice on our district web site ([www.ellsaline.org](http://www.ellsaline.org)). Good communication at those times is critical.

A second piece of communication that will be important for each of us to stay current on throughout the winter and spring is that of the condition of the state's budget and how it will impact not only school district budgets but also all other programs and services provided by state funding. The Consensus Revenue Estimating Group met this month, they meet twice a year in April and November, and they again projected disappointing financial news. The disappointing news from the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group is a result of the tax cut legislation passed in the last couple of years. Their estimation for the ending balance for this year (FY 2014) is a decrease of \$29M or 0.5% below the estimate made in April. This is not a huge decrease and likely will not impact the funding for any programs or services but, nevertheless, it is still a decrease. The revised revenue estimate of \$5,857B represents a 7.6% decrease from the FY 2013 receipts. If this projection and trend continues, then Kansas is headed toward the financial train wreck in just a matter of two to three years. Communication with our Senators and Representatives will be even more critical than ever this year. They will need to hear from everyone just how this loss of 7.6% of state revenue will impact you. To put it close to home, how would a 7.6% reduction in your monthly wages impact what you are able to provide for your family? What would happen if the state was to reduce by that amount the supports and services that you receive from them?

The state budget is not the only topic in Topeka to keep an eye on. It will also be important to carefully monitor what legislation is being proposed. There is a strong likelihood that again this year several proposals that are detrimental to K-12 education will again be introduced. A sampling of issues impacting either citizens in general or school districts in particular that are likely to be addressed this legislative session include: changes in the manner of which judges are selected; limits on school finance lawsuits; not funding the implementation of the Kansas College and Career Ready (Common Core) standards; changes in union and teacher rights (bargaining, due process); more interest in voucher, charter schools, social promotion; likely more support for the Governor's tax policy; and demand for "school efficiency" audits and practices with possibly more state control of budgets and budgeting. For Kansas to remain the great place it is to live and raise a family and for Kansas to maintain the high quality of education that our students deserve, it will be extremely important that we all stay up-to-date on what is being proposed in Topeka and communicate our concerns to our area legislators.

Our students have used several forms of communication this month as they gained confidence and showcased their talents. Eleven of our top instrumental students (Sr. – Forrest Dreyer, Garrett Schuman; Jr. – Levi Holcom, Jacob Hopkins, ToriLynn Miser, Tabitha Newton; So. – Noah Bradley, Riley Drees, Spencer Kochanowski, Morgan Parker; Fr. –Kodee Christensen), accompanied by Ms. Joan Grover participated in the HOA League Honors Instrumental Concert at Remington High School. That same week Grades 5 and 6, under the direction of Miss Amy Brandt and Ms. Joan Grover presented an outstanding fall concert. The MS basketball teams under coaches Ms. Erin Marshall, Mr. Brian Morris and Mr. Norm Jennings have started their seasons with wins over Salina Christian Academy. Our HS Scholars' Bowl team under the coaching of Mrs. Ashley Hanson has participated in several meets. Our HS Drama Club under the direction of Mrs. Amanda Little put on two great performances of the play, *Our Town*. Our 7-12 Instrumental and Vocal students under the direction of Ms. Joan Grover displayed their talents in their winter concert. Our HS basketball teams, cheerleaders and dance teams under the direction of their coaches Mr. Jeff Vogt, Mrs. Cary Wilson, Mr. Doug Wilson, Mr. John Johnson, and Mrs. Nikki Davenport will begin their seasons on Tuesday, December 3, when they host Marion. Each of these is an example of various communication tools that our students are being exposed to that will help them be better prepared for school and work when they leave us.

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. That is just one of the many things for us to be thankful for on Thanksgiving Day.