

**DECEMBER 9 BOARD MEETING REPORT**

Mitch Drees was the only board member absent. Action taken was on a 6-0 vote unless noted otherwise.

7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

AUDIENCE WITH THE BOARD: None

**REPORTS**

SRO Hammonds – Officer Hammonds reported on activities of this fall semester.

BOE – Jeff Parker reported on the KASB Convention and Delegate Assembly he attended.

Mrs. Sprinkle – Her report included: changes in state assessment procedures this year; Mr. Burgess receiving a \$1,000 grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield to purchase equipment and materials to promote recreational activities and nutrition; three Common Core articles in the *Salina Journal*; an informational evening in Wichita on Understanding the Common Core; and the staff has adopted three families for the Christmas season.

Mrs. Wildeman – Her report included: eight seniors have scored in the top 10% of all seniors who have taken the ACT test; Hunter Lindquist has been accepted into the KU Honors Program; there will be two students attending Salina Area Vo-Tech next semester taking advantage of the state’s free tuition program; and four teachers will be going to Inman to observe the use of iPads in instruction.

Mr. Minneman – His report included: the new mini-vans are here and the other vehicles approved should be here by the end of January; the final Assessed Valuation of the district is higher than was anticipated at the time of adopting the budget so the overall mill levy is reduced by .174; the majority of the work at the elementary school parking lot is completed; and dates that he will be attending meetings out of the district before the next meeting.

**BUSINESS**

Board Policy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading—The proposed policy changes were approved as presented.

Supplemental Position—Josh Farrell was approved as the Boys’ Golf Coach for this spring.

Technology Plan Items—The items were approved as presented.

SHESC Interlocal Agreement—This was approved as presented.

2012-2013 Kansas Communities That Care Survey Results—The results of last year’s survey were reviewed.

Kansas College and Career Ready Standards—Some of the changes in the Mathematics and English Language Arts standards were reviewed.

Select Board’s Negotiations Team—Jamie Bradley and Michelle Cooper volunteered to serve as the board’s negotiations team.

There were two Executive Sessions (Personnel, Negotiations).

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, January 13 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.

***SRO Corner!***

Just wanted everyone to know that I feel so thankful for being the School Resource Officer at USD #307! When I applied for this position I didn’t really think it could bring as much fulfillment as driving 130 mph with lights and sirens or going to a cow call way down south! Actually, I’m having more fun right now than I have in a long time and I want you to know that it is your students and school staff that makes this job fun!

Remember, if I can ever do anything for you or if you have any questions please don’t hesitate to call!

I can’t believe that the second semester is already starting! This year has gone by so fast! Hope everyone had a great holiday season. I look forward to seeing you at a game, in class, in the hallways or wherever else we might be gathered as Ell-Saline Cardinals!!

Deputy Hammonds



# ESE 5th Grade: Wise on the Web!

Kathy Randolph, USD 307 Librarian

Students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade come to the library weekly for classes. This semester, one of our areas of focus has been responsible internet use. The students read articles, watched video clips, and had discussion about being online. The last class period on this topic was spent with the students making a list of things they would do as parents to help their children stay safe and responsible online. I thought their suggestions were worthy of your time and consideration. Their responses showed that they had been listening and thinking about their own experiences and behaviors.

I have cleaned up some spelling and grammar on these suggestions, but have tried to keep them as true to what the students wrote as possible. I hope to include more suggestions in upcoming issues of the ECHO so that all their comments can be included.

## FIFTH GRADERS' RECOMMENDATIONS TO PARENTS.....Promoting safety online!

- Do not let them (your child) use the internet.
- If there is, put on SAFETY LOCK.
- Don't give them (your child) a computer.
- Don't play when kid is awake or play where kids can see you.
- Don't teach them (your child) to play games.
- I would not even go on the internet and not even let them (your child) know. First I would go and tell my parents.
- If I was going to go outside and meet someone I would tell my parents.
- If someone was talking to me on internet that I did not know I would turn off the computer, phone, iPad and if no one was home I would call the police.
- Limit internet usage on the computer.
- When somebody wants to do something, ask them (your child) what they are doing.
- Limit text messages, calls, and messages.
- Limit web sites, or don't let kids use them at all.
- Limit electronic devices.
- You could ask them (your child) every 5 minutes what they are on, and ask them where they are going if they leave.
- Shorten their time on the computer.

.....more student recommendations will be in the next issue of the ECHO!

# What to Do When Kids Don't Read Fluently



Scholastic Parents: Raise a Reader  
Let's do what we can to grow fluent readers!  
By **Amy Mascott**  
on May 27, 2013



Fluent readers are readers who not only sound good while they're reading, but who also understand what they're reading. And by "good," I mean that when they read, they sound natural and conversational, not choppy or disconnected.

We all know how hard it is to listen to non-fluent reading, and we all know how fluent reading *should* sound. But how do we help them get from non-fluent to fluent? What should parents do when their kids are not fluent readers? And more importantly, what can parents do to help their children read more fluently?

First things first. When children are struggling through a text reading -- stopping every few words and reading in a disconnected, jagged way -- let them rest. Stop the reading and close the book. Especially if they're reaching a frustration level, let them rest. There's no need to plow on in this painful sort of way.

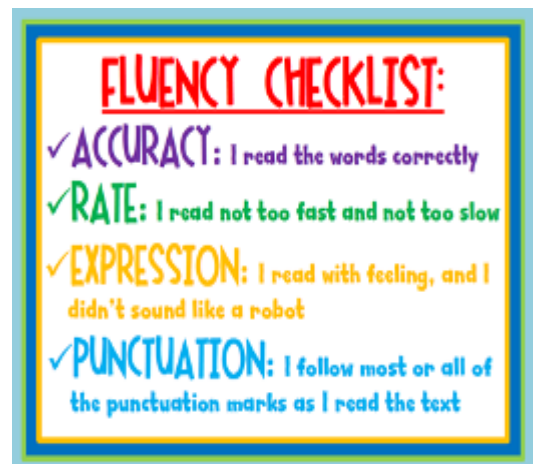
Instead, say, "I have an idea. Let's take a break for a minute and just breathe. I can tell you are working very hard at reading the words on this page and it must take a lot of energy. How about you turn back through the pages you read and pick your favorite part? Show me the page that you really loved reading, and we're going to look at that."

Go back to that part and read it out loud. It should be a few paragraphs or phrases long. First, you read it out, modeling what fluent reading should sound like. Then, suggest that you either do a Chorus Read or an Echo Read—or even better, do both!

A Chorus Read is when you and your child read the passage at the same exact time, like a chorus sings the same part of a song together. An Echo Read is when one person reads a sentence or phrase first, and then another person reads it immediately after, like an echo.

Practice those types of reading, and then celebrate the child's growth. Every little step counts as one step closer to fluent reading!

Fluency is developed by listening to fluent reading and by practicing fluent reading. Encouraging a child to "master" a page -- or a paragraph or passage -- and then allowing him/her to share that piece with an audience (even if it's an audience of one!) will definitely help.



# Science in 2nd Grade



EXPLOSIONS? That's what the second graders were discussing in their talks about the science week in Mrs. Peterson's class. The students were engaged in science experiments (that did not really explode) to use informational text in reading. They learned about safety with science and the scientific method. From listening, learning, and reading to the writing and experimenting; the students were engaged in a variety of learning activities.

Many written comments about the week included the excitement, curiosity, and fun they were having in class. Children discussed their findings about science that day, and some families even had to re-do the experiment at home. The lessons carried over to their homes and into the students' writing for that week. Overall, the week was a great way to include informational text into reading. I am happy to see so much learning in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade!

# FFA Updates



The Ell-Saline FFA helped collect over 500 food items to help the Brookville Methodist church serve the people of our rural community in providing Holiday meals.



The Ell-Saline FFA placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the North Central District Career Development Event. Individually Mike Pieschl and Justin Schmutz placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bri Graham placed 11<sup>th</sup>. Other team members were Selecia Herrman, Tanner Parker, Ethan Steinbruck, Kiva Phelps and Morgan Walsh.



The Ell-Saline FFA hosted the Red Cross Blood Mobile at Ell-Saline High School. Students had the opportunity to learn about giving by donating blood.

# December

## *Student/Staff of the Month*



Cade Heinrich is our middle school student of the month! Cade is in the 7th grade and is the son of Melissa. His siblings include Michaela and Lakota. Cade participates in basketball and track; he is also a server at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Cade enjoys reading and will continue through schooling to get a higher education!

Lara Brockway is our high school student of the month! Lara's parents are Troy and Kathy, and she has two siblings named Jessie and Aidan. Her involvement in the school is impressive. Lara participates in track, cross country, cheerleading, dance team, scholars bowl, NHS, and many more activities. Lara also dances competitively at Vivette's Studio and is a member of Youth Grant Makers Council. Her hobbies includes running, reading, and hanging out with The Cat Lady Crew. Lara's future plans include attending WSU and majoring in marketing. Great Job Lara!



Mrs. Nelson is the FACS and 7th grade math teacher with 19 years of experience in the district. She also is the FCCLA advisor, Youth Relay For Life sponsor and 7th grade class sponsor. Beta Sigma Phi sorority, Sacred Heart Cathedral, and KNEA are her "extra-curricular" organizations. Mrs. Nelson's interests include consumer issues, energy education, farming and antiques. When time permits, she enjoys family visits, textile arts, southwestern vacations, gardening and yard sales. The support of her family, Ell-Saline staff, students, and patrons is greatly appreciated by Mrs. Nelson. Thanks especially go to her husband, Craig, children, Elizabeth, Lance and his wife, Sara, Eric, and her mother, Norma.



# COMMON CORE CORNER

## Kansas College and Career Ready

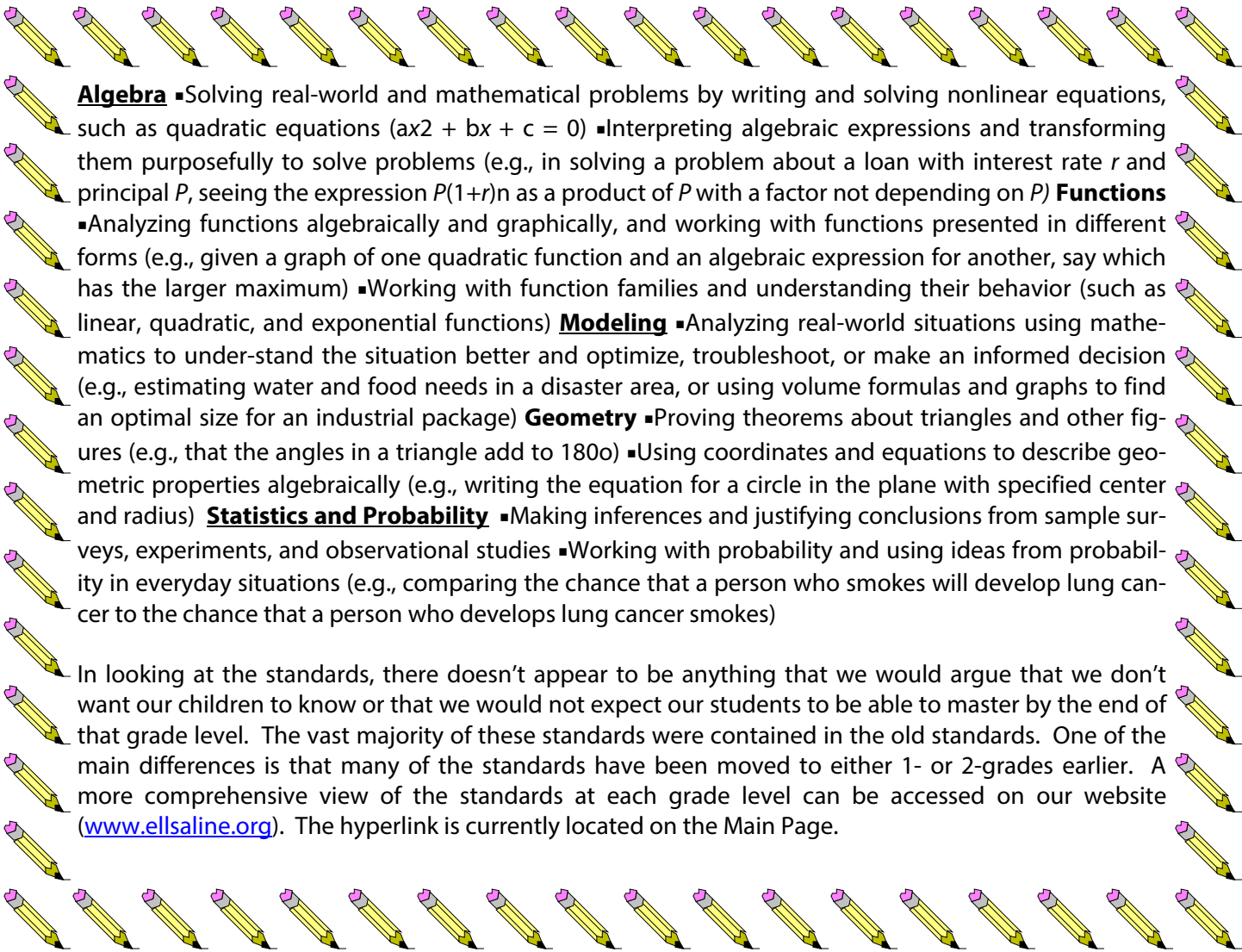
The Kansas State Board of Education at its meeting this month did not approve the Kansas Department of Education's recommendation of using the Smarter Balanced Assessment but rather chose to have the Center for Educational Testing and Evaluation (CETE) out of the University of Kansas develop the assessments. Even though the assessment company is not who everyone thought it was going to be, the Kansas College and Career Standards are still in effect. The following is a sample of the new Mathematics standards. Next month will include a highlight of the English Language Arts and Literacy standards.

**Kindergarten** ■Counting objects to tell how many there are ■Comparing two groups of objects to tell which group, if either, has more; comparing two written numbers to tell which is greater ■Acting out addition and subtraction word problems and drawing diagrams to represent them ■Adding with a sum of 10 or less; subtracting from a number 10 or less; and solving addition and subtraction word problems ■Adding and subtracting very small numbers quickly and accurately (e.g.,  $3 + 1$ ) ■Correctly naming shapes regardless of orientation or size (e.g., a square oriented as a "diamond" is still a square)

**3rd Grade** ■Multiplying and dividing up to  $10 \times 10$  quickly and accurately, including knowing the times tables from memory ■Solving word problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division ■Beginning to multiply numbers with more than one digit (e.g., multiplying  $9 \times 80$ ) ■Understanding fractions and relating them to the familiar system of whole numbers (e.g., recognizing that  $\frac{3}{1}$  and 3 are the same number) ■Measuring and estimating weights and liquid volumes, and solving word problems involving these quantities ■Reasoning about shapes (e.g., all squares are rectangles but not all rectangles are squares) ■Finding areas of shapes, and relating area to multiplication (e.g., why is the number of square feet for a 9-foot by 7-foot room given by the product  $9 \times 7$ ?)

**6th Grade** ■Understanding ratios and rates, and solving problems involving proportional relationships (e.g., if it took 7 hours to mow 4 lawns, then at that rate, how many lawns could be mowed in 35 hours?) ■Dividing fractions and solving related word problems (e.g., how wide is a rectangular strip of land with length  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile and area  $\frac{1}{2}$  square mile?) ■Using positive and negative numbers together to describe quantities; understanding the ordering and absolute values of positive and negative numbers ■Working with variables and expressions by generalizing the way numbers work (e.g., when adding numbers, the order doesn't matter, so  $x + y = y + x$ ; likewise, properties of addition and multiplication can be used to rewrite  $24x + 18y$  as  $6(4x + 3y)$ , or  $y + y + y$  as  $3y$ ) ■Writing equations to solve word problems and describe relationships between quantities (e.g., the distance  $D$  traveled by a train in time  $T$  might be expressed by an equation  $D = 85T$ , where  $D$  is in miles and  $T$  is in hours) ■Reasoning about relationships between shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume

**High School Number and Quantity** ■Working with rational and irrational numbers, including working with rational exponents (e.g., rewriting  $(53)^{1/2}$  as  $5\sqrt{5}$ ) ■Solving problems with a wide range of units and solving problems by thinking about units (e.g., "The Trans Alaska Pipeline System is 800 miles long and cost \$8 billion to build. Divide one of these numbers by the other. What is the meaning of the answer?"; "Greenland has a population of 56,700 and a land area of 2,175,600 square kilometers. By what factor is the population density of the United States, 80 persons per square mile, larger than the population density of Greenland?")



**Algebra** ■Solving real-world and mathematical problems by writing and solving nonlinear equations, such as quadratic equations ( $ax^2 + bx + c = 0$ ) ■Interpreting algebraic expressions and transforming them purposefully to solve problems (e.g., in solving a problem about a loan with interest rate  $r$  and principal  $P$ , seeing the expression  $P(1+r)^n$  as a product of  $P$  with a factor not depending on  $P$ ) **Functions** ■Analyzing functions algebraically and graphically, and working with functions presented in different forms (e.g., given a graph of one quadratic function and an algebraic expression for another, say which has the larger maximum) ■Working with function families and understanding their behavior (such as linear, quadratic, and exponential functions) **Modeling** ■Analyzing real-world situations using mathematics to understand the situation better and optimize, troubleshoot, or make an informed decision (e.g., estimating water and food needs in a disaster area, or using volume formulas and graphs to find an optimal size for an industrial package) **Geometry** ■Proving theorems about triangles and other figures (e.g., that the angles in a triangle add to 180°) ■Using coordinates and equations to describe geometric properties algebraically (e.g., writing the equation for a circle in the plane with specified center and radius) **Statistics and Probability** ■Making inferences and justifying conclusions from sample surveys, experiments, and observational studies ■Working with probability and using ideas from probability in everyday situations (e.g., comparing the chance that a person who smokes will develop lung cancer to the chance that a person who develops lung cancer smokes)

In looking at the standards, there doesn't appear to be anything that we would argue that we don't want our children to know or that we would not expect our students to be able to master by the end of that grade level. The vast majority of these standards were contained in the old standards. One of the main differences is that many of the standards have been moved to either 1- or 2-grades earlier. A more comprehensive view of the standards at each grade level can be accessed on our website ([www.ellsaline.org](http://www.ellsaline.org)). The hyperlink is currently located on the Main Page.

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

What a reminder the last couple of weeks have been about the fast approaching start of winter. Although we didn't receive much in the way of moisture we certainly received our share of bitterly cold temperatures. It seems the *Farmer's Almanac* might be correct in it being a colder than normal winter.

This week we will be starting our Winter Vacation—a time to enjoy family and friends, to look back on all the memories (good and bad) of the current year, and to look forward with anticipation to the excitement and promise that a new year brings. As a district we enjoyed many successes and experienced a few disappointments. Through it all, we have continued to work to improve and not be satisfied with where we are.

I'll list two recent examples of the academic successes that our students have enjoyed. First of all, eight of our seniors have scored in the top 10% of all seniors who have taken the ACT test. Second, Hunter Lindquist has been accepted into the KU Honors Program. This is quite a tribute not only to the hard work of these students but also to all of their teachers over the years and to their parents for the support and encouragement that they have given.

Thank you for your continued trust and confidence in the Ell-Saline USD 307 school district. You can be assured that we will do all that we can with the resources that we have available to continue to provide a quality education for our students. As always, please feel free to stop in or to contact me at [jminne-man@ellsaline.org](mailto:jminne-man@ellsaline.org) or 785-225-6813 if you have any questions. I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

# 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

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Jan. 1 - 5	WINTER BREAK	Jan. 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan. 6	Classes Resume	Jan. 21	TBA HS BB V Mid-Season Boys Tournament @ Canton/Galva
Jan. 7	4:30 HS BB Sedgwick @ ES	Jan. 22	1:00 HS HOA Scholars' Bowl @ Remington
Jan. 7	2012/2013 Spring State Team Recognition	Jan. 23	4:00 MS BB Berean Academy @ ES
Jan. 8	6:00 MS/HS Site Council	Jan. 23	TBA HS BB V Mid-Season Boys Tournament @ Canton/Galva
Jan. 8	6:00 ESIC Mtg.	Jan. 24	K-State Band Clinic @ Manhattan
Jan. 8	6:30 Booster Club Mtg.	Jan. 24	TBA HS BB V Mid-Season Boys Tournament @ Canton/Galva
Jan. 9	4:00 MS BB Remington @ ES	Jan. 25	9:00 MS BB B-Team Tournament @ ES
Jan. 10	ACT Test Registration Deadline	Jan. 25	K-State Band Clinic @ Manhattan
Jan. 10	4:30 HS BB @ Remington	Jan. 25	TBA HS BB Freshman Tournament @ Smoky Valley
Jan. 11	8:00 - 4:00 HS State Band KMEA Auditions @ Salina Central	Jan. 26	K-State Band Clinic @ Manhattan
Jan. 11	9:00 MS "C" BB @ Southeast of Saline	Jan. 27	TBA HS BB V Mid-Season Girls Tournament @ BCCC
Jan. 13	7:00 BOE Mtg. @ DO	Jan. 27	TBA HS BB Freshman Tournament @ Smoky Valley
Jan. 14	4:30 HS BB Bennington @ ES	Jan. 27	6:30 CPTA Mtg. @ EL
Jan. 15	FFA @ Abilene	Jan. 28	TBA HS BB V Mid-Season Girls Tournament @ BCCC
Jan. 16	4:00 MS BB @ Bennington	Jan. 30	4:00 MS BB Canton/Galva @ ES
Jan. 17	4:30 HS BB @ Canton/Galva	Jan. 30	TBA HS BB V Mid-Season Girls Tournament @ BCCC
Jan. 18	TBA JH KMEA Band/Choir @ Junction City Middle School	Jan. 31	TBA HS BB V Mid-Season Girls Tournament @ BCCC
Jan. 18	FFA @ Denver, CO		
Jan. 18	Booster Club EL BB Tourney		
Jan. 19	FFA @ Denver, CO		
Jan. 19	Booster Club EL BB Tourney		
Jan. 20	NO SCHOOL—Teacher In-Service		
Jan. 20	TBA HS BB V Mid-Season Boys Tournament @ Canton/Galva		