

**NO SCHOOL FOR MS/HS STUDENTS
ON TUESDAY, MARCH 11, AND MON-
DAY, APRIL 7.**

Accept Resignations—Pam Dodd's (Kindergarten) and Katie Swank's (Title I Reading) resignations were accepted.

Student Out-of-State Travel—Ms. Marshall's request for the seniors to travel to Branson, MO for their trip was approved.

Principal's Contracts—Mrs. Sprinkle's and Ms. Wildeman's contracts were extended through the 2015-2016 school year. Their salary will be set following teacher negotiations.

Motion to Republish Budget—The budget hearing will be held at 6:55 p.m. on Monday, March 10, which is just prior to the start of the regular March board meeting.

Four Year-Old At-Risk Pre-School Program—Mrs. Sprinkle shared information from the committee researching the feasibility of starting a program. The main hurdle is in funding. A recommendation will be presented at the March board meeting. Information item only.

End-of-School Year Activities—The consensus was that the date for the staff recognition luncheon be set for Thursday, May 22, at the elementary school.

There were two Executive Sessions (Personnel, Negotiations).

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, March 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office in Brookville. The Republished Budget Hearing will take place at 6:55. 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.



Wednesday, April 23, 2014

If you have a child who will be 5 years old before August 31, 2014, please contact Ell-Saline Elementary School for details (785) 827-8891. You can go online to www.ellsaline.org for information and to print off the Kindergarten Round Up Form.

FEBRUARY 10 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

BOE – None

Mrs. Sprinkle – Her report included: KITE system training; state assessment Test Security and Ethics training; the second half-day session to work on ELA Curriculum Maps and gather additional resource materials; reminder of the Parent Reading Enrichment Night on February 24; Pennies for Patients has started; and Camp Read A Lot will be on February 28.

Mrs. Wildeman – Her report included: a list of students qualifying for either the State Forensics meet or the State Festival; Mike Pieschl and Paige Johnson being nominated as "Bigs of the Year"; postponed basketball game with Minneapolis is rescheduled for Monday, February 24; staff Mimio training has been rescheduled; a lockdown drill was held; and the NHS banquet is rescheduled to Wednesday, February 26.

Mr. Minneman – His report included: there will not be school for MS/HS students on Tuesday, March 11, (hosting HOA MS Music Festival) and on Monday, April 7 (hosting HOA Forensics meet); we still have roughly nine snow days left in the calendar; the new bus should be here any time; HB2227 on changing the date of school board elections to November from April; and dates that he will be attending meetings out of the district before the next meeting.

BUSINESS

Board Policy 2nd Reading—These were approved as presented.

Fall Sports Supplemental Positions—This item was tabled until next month.

Ell-Saline FFA Banquet



- **When: March 27, 2014**
- **Where: Ell-Saline High School**
- **Time: 6:30 PM**
- **Food and drinks will be provided**
- **The Ell-Saline FFA Alumni will be having a silent auction to raise money for student scholarships**
- **Students will be recognized for their SAE's, CDE's, and other achievements**
- **Everyone is invited, you don't need to have students in FFA be an Ell-Saline or FFA Alumni to participate**

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STUDENT/STAFF OF THE MONTH



Baily Goddard is the February high school student of the month! She is a senior with two siblings and the daughter of Sam and Jolene Goddard. She participates in basketball, volleyball, NHS, FOR, and Upward Bound. She volunteers at Martin Luther King Jr. Child Development Center, the local CAPS Auction, and Big Brothers Big Sisters. She enjoys riding horses and playing sports, all while maintaining a 3.78 GPA! Baily intends on going to Fort Hays State University to major in nursing. Congratulations, Baily!

Blake Bell is our middle school student of the month! He is a 7th grader who is involved in Relay for Life, band, track, and basketball. He also enjoys 4H, hunting, fishing, farming, and raising animals to show at 4H. His parents are Jason and Kris Bell, and he is one of five children! Blake plans on going to college and continuing his love for farming. Keep up the great work, Blake!



Our Staff Member of the Month is Teri Arnhold; she has been a resource teacher for the past five years. Teri enjoys sewing, crafting, playing guitar, and going to Texas! Her future plans include someday retiring and doing whatever she wants. Teri would also like to let everyone know that she really likes Hunter Lindquist, "She is really cool!" Congratulations Teri!

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Let it snow! Let it snow! We had been needing and wanting moisture of any kind for quite some time and we finally got it earlier this month. It did create some hazardous travel conditions, made taking care of livestock more difficult, and closed school for several days. Even with that, I think that the majority of us welcomed the snow and hope that this was just the beginning of more moisture throughout the year.

We appreciate all the parents that took the time, worked with us on rescheduling, and braved the snow and cold conditions to come and visit with us during the Parent-Teacher Conferences. That communication and support is very important in your child's education.

Within the next couple of weeks, our students will begin taking the state assessments. This year various grade levels will be tested in Mathematics and Reading. The assessments this year are called "transitional assessments" and are based on the new standards. The "transitional assessments" will also be presented in a different format. As a result it will be difficult to compare this year's assessment scores with a student's scores from previous years. We will not be able to compare the grade level scores or the building level scores to previous years. This set of scores will provide some feedback on our implementation of the new standards. Our staff is still using quality teaching techniques and covering content. We ask that you encourage your children to do their best, get adequate sleep and eat a nutritious breakfast during these testing days.

Again this year the legislative session is proving to be as challenging as was anticipated. Progress during the first few weeks of the session was very slow. This was partly because of the weather and partly because of waiting for the court's decision on the *Gannon* case which questions the adequacy of state funding for K-12 education. So far the court has not made a ruling. In recent weeks, though, several bills have been introduced but very few of them have a positive impact on Ell-Saline students or K-12 education in general. Several of them require extra administrator time and are mandates that will come with no additional funding which would result in further stretching our budget. Bulleted below are some of the bills that would have the most serious consequence on both schools and all taxpayers.

- **HB 2227** – Changes school board elections from the spring to the fall in odd numbered years
- **SB 211** – Similar to HB 2227 in that it changes school board elections to the fall but in even numbered years, eliminates the voting plan that we use of only patrons residing in the area of the school board opening to vote for the candidate and would require that the voting be open to all patrons of the entire district, and requires that rather than the remaining board members fill a vacancy on the board that it is filled by party precinct committee members which then makes it partisan
- **HB 2456** – Reclassifies to personal property cement manufacturing equipment (This would reduce the amount of tax revenue and would likely lead to other types of equipment being reclassified in future years which would further reduce tax revenues.)
- **SB 341** – Provides for funding of All-Day Kindergarten to be phased in at 10% increase for each of the next five years (This would be a positive.)
- **HB 2475** – Requires that a course in Financial Literacy be offered at the Junior or Senior level and that it be required for graduation
- **HB 2606 and SB 367** – Ensures that student data privacy be maintained
- **HB 2621** – Similar to HB 2606 and SB 367 but along with ensuring privacy of student data also declares the current Kansas College and Career Ready Standards null and void and that the old state assessments be used for two more years
- **SB 196** – Allows the enactment of charter schools without the involvement of local school boards as is now required
- **SB 378** – Creates a system of public funds for students attending private schools

I encourage you to contact your local legislators and share your thoughts with them and encourage them to provide the necessary amount of funding for education. Contact information for our local legislators is provided below.

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 and we can get to know each other.

Sen. Tom Arpke
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 300 SW 10th Street
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 785-296-7369
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March

Fun Facts

Healthy Eating Tip: Teach Kids About Portions

In this world of supersized portions, teaching your kids about serving sizes by comparing them to everyday objects can help prevent them from eating more than they need, and maintain a healthy weight. It's a good tool for you to use, too!

2 ½ ounces meat:	size/thickness of a deck of cards
Medium piece of fruit:	a tennis ball
1 ounce of cheese:	4 stacked dice
½ cup ice cream:	tennis ball
½ cup rice, pasta, mashed potatoes or broccoli	about the size of a fist
1 tsp peanut butter:	the tip of your thumb
1 ounce of nuts:	one handful

Source: "Seven Ways to Size Up Your Servings," National Dairy Council®, 1996

School Breakfast: The Facts

School breakfast is proven to be good for children's bodies and their minds. Research shows that breakfast eaters have improved memory, problem-solving skills, verbal fluency and creative abilities. It also shows that breakfast skippers rarely make up for the nutrients they miss out on at breakfast later in the day – so skipping breakfast can affect the after-school activities they love.

Shamrock Milk Mixer

Mix up this Shamrock Milk Mixer for some green on St. Patrick's Day!

- 1 chocolate-mint sandwich cookie, crushed
- 1 cup low-fat milk
- 2 tablespoons pistachio instant pudding mix
- 1 drop green food coloring.



Place cookie in a small plastic bag and crush it with a rolling pin or your hands. Pour milk into a tall glass. Add pudding mix and stir with a fork until dissolved. Stir in green food coloring. Stir in crushed cookie. Enjoy!

Makes 1 serving

Source: Recipe created by Elizabeth Ward, MS, RD for 3-A-Day™ of Dairy, www.3aday.org

Family Fun Quick Tips for St. Patrick's Day

- Make 'shamrock milk' by adding a few drops of green food coloring
- Dance the Irish Jig with your kids
- Serve Irish oatmeal made with milk
- Read **Jamie O' Rourke and the Big Potato and Fin M'Cou: The Giant of Knockmany Hill** by Tomie De Paola
- Serve fresh, green fruits, like green apple slices, kiwifruit slices and green grapes, with green yogurt for dipping



Kids' Corner: Power Up with School Breakfast Superheroes

Join your kids at school for National School Breakfast Week, March 8-12 and Power up with the School Breakfast Superheroes – Mr. Breakfast, Yogurl, Eggbot, Crunch, The Fruit Avenger and The Sandwich Sensi! Learn more about these superheroes and find fun activities for kids at www.schoolbreakfast.org.





COMMON CORE CORNER

Kansas College and Career Ready

In the last couple of month's we highlighted some of the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards for English Language Arts and for mathematics. This month we are sharing information on how education data is used to improve student achievement and on how that data is kept confidential.

What Are Education Data?

Education data means any type of information (student attendance, demographics, assessment scores, or success in college and the workforce) that helps parents, educators, and policymakers make informed decisions about education. Schools and districts collect a lot of information about students. Following are some frequently asked questions regarding the use of this data.

1. I already have my child's grades and test scores, so what more do I need?

You may have some information about your child, but this doesn't tell you how your child is doing over time, how they compare to kids in other schools, and if they're going to be ready for college or a job.

Your child's teacher uses your child's data to understand your child's learning and teach to their needs and strengths. Your child's school uses data to make sure your child is on track to graduate.

Example: Early warning systems provide information to educators and families about whether students need extra help. Parents and teachers can use this information to help students improve their performance.

2. Why does the state collect student data? Can't my district just do it?

States can do things districts can't, like follow children when they move across district lines and connect high school data to college records.

Also, because states provide services on a larger scale, they can better employ technical expertise and have more purchasing power to adopt better technology and security than most districts.

Example: When a child moves across district lines, the state can electronically transfer transcripts in real time so that the child doesn't lose instructional time repeating lessons or trying to make up missed material.

3. As we implement state standards aligned to the Common Core, what can I expect to change with regard to data collection or use?

Common Core is a set of grade-level expectations and doesn't require states or districts to collect any new data.

With comparable expectations across states, states will be able to better use the data they have to make comparisons to other states and determine what programs, interventions, and pathways lead to success.

Example: With comparable expectations, state data is comparable across state lines. Your state can better understand how well third graders in your state are reading compared to third graders in other states—and what those states might be doing better.

Along with the great benefits of education data come school, district, and state responsibilities to keep your child's data private. Following are some frequently asked questions regarding the security and privacy of this data.



1. How is my child's privacy being protected?

There are many federal and state laws that protect the privacy of students.

Data systems use complex security processes and technology to protect student data.

Example: HB2606 and SB367 outline policies and processes to protect student data.

2. If my school district or state works with a vendor to keep track of things like attendance, grades, and test scores, will my child's information be secure?

Districts and states almost always work with a vendor to keep the data they collect safe and make it easy to use.

Federal and state laws prevent these vendors from using the data in any way the district doesn't want them to.

These vendors also can't sell the data or let anyone else access it.

Example: A federal law called FERPA specifies that student records cannot be accessed for purposes not related to education or a health or safety emergency.

3. Who has access to this data?

Access to student data is role based, which means that only teachers and other designated local personnel have access to student data.

FERPA was designed to protect student privacy. And most states have their own privacy laws in addition to FERPA.

The federal government is forbidden by at least four federal laws from collecting student data. And the federal government can't look at the data about individual students that states collect.

Example: Section 9531 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act prohibits the creation of a federal student database.

Since some of the opposition to the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards (Common Core) has been aimed at the data that is collected, I hope that the information shared here helps to answer questions you might have had about it. More information on the standards can be accessed on our website (www.ellsaline.org). The hyperlink is currently located on the Main Page.

SNOW IN DRIVEWAYS

The amount of snow that came with the early February storm raised some issues for bus routes that we hadn't experienced in several years. One of those issues is that of being able to get in and out of driveways that are used as turn around points. It is necessary that those driveways be cleared of snow. If a driver feels that he/she won't be able to make it in and out of the driveway without getting stuck then he/she will stop at the end of the driveway and the students will need to walk out, or be brought out, to meet the bus. In some instances, that might even mean that the driver has to stop at the nearest intersection and the students be brought there. We would appreciate everyone's help in keeping their driveways clean so we can continue to pick up your children at the normal spot.



Reading Parent Enrichment Night

Helping Students "Bloom" in Reading

Please join the teachers of Ell-Saline Elementary in our **Reading Parent Enrichment Night** on **Thursday, February 27th** from **6:15-7:45**. Teachers will be hosting breakout sessions that will help you support your student(s) in the area of reading. Childcare will be provided, so don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to learn new strategies to use at home.

The session topics are:

- *The "Roots" of Reading: Phonemic Awareness a strong foundation for reading readiness
- *Comprehension Strategies: Strong "Stems" Support Reading Comprehension
- *Branching Out: Writing activities in a variety of environments
- *In Full Bloom: Check out future assessment format
- *"Bouquet" of Books: Selecting a variety of book types
- *Busy Bees: At home spelling strategies



EI-Saline USD 307

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check for changes at www.ellsaline.org

Mar. 1	State KMEA @ Wichita	Mar. 18	NO SCHOOL —Spring Break
Mar. 3	FFA @ Minneapolis	Mar. 19	NO SCHOOL —Spring Break
Mar. 3	HS BB Sub-State Girls Tournament	Mar. 20	NO SCHOOL —Spring Break
Mar. 3	MS Scholars' Bowl @ Bennington	Mar. 21	NO SCHOOL —Spring Break
Mar. 4	HS BB Sub-State Boys Tournament	Mar. 21	FFA @ Junction City
Mar. 6	HS BB Sub-State Girls Tournament @ Solomon	Mar. 22	FFA @ Junction City
Mar. 7	HS BB Sub-State Boys Tournament @ Solomon	Mar. 24	6:30 CPTA Mtg.
Mar. 7	ACT Test Registration Deadline	Mar. 25	6:00 Spring Sports Parent Mtg.
Mar. 8	HS BB Sub-State Finals Tournament @ Solomon	Mar. 25	7:00 1-2 Vocal Program @ EL
Mar. 9	Daylight Savings	Mar. 26	FFA @ Beloit
Mar. 10	6:55 Budget Hearing @ ESDO	Mar. 27	6:30 FFA Banquet
Mar. 10	7:00 BOE mtg. @ ESDO	Mar. 29	KSHSAA Regional Solo/Sm Ensemble @ Tabor College
Mar. 10	7:00 Booster Club Meeting	Mar. 31	6:00 ESIC Mtg
Mar. 11	8:00 MS HOA Music Festival @ ES	Apr. 1	3:00 HS BSB Smoky Valley @ ES
Mar. 11	NO SCHOOL —MS/HS	Apr. 1	4:00 MS Scholars' Bowl @ Canton/Galva
Mar. 12	HS BB State Girls Tournament @ KSU	Apr. 2	HOA League Art @ Inman
Mar. 13	FFA @ Concordia	Apr. 2	6:00 MS/HS Site Council
Mar. 13	HS BB State Boys Tournament @ KSU	Apr. 3	2:00 MS TR @ Tescott
Mar. 14	NO SCHOOL —Teacher Work Day	Apr. 3	3:00 HS SB/BSB @ ES
Mar. 14	HS BB State Semi-Finals Tournament @ KSU	Apr. 5	State Science Olympiad @ Wichita
Mar. 15	HS BB State Finals Tournament @ KSU	Apr. 5	Regional Music Contest @ Tabor College
Mar. 17	St. Patrick's Day		
Mar. 17	NO SCHOOL —Spring Break		