

### FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

With the temperatures we've had this week it's hard to imagine that we're in December and that Christmas is less than three weeks away! One thing about it, though, is we can't use the weather as an excuse for not getting out doing our Christmas shopping, hanging decorations and attending Christmas programs.

Next 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.

Again this year our seniors are enjoying great academic success and are likely to soon be receiving anxiously awaited news of scholarships they have received. We have received news of recent accomplishments and awards of both current students and alums.

- ✓ Two of our seniors (Kody Came and Riley Drees) were selected for the final interview process for the Dane Hanson Scholarship that is worth up to \$40,000.
- ✓ Kody Came has achieved a high enough score on his ACT college entrance exam that K-State has offered him a \$36,000 scholarship over a four-year period.
- ✓ Each year K-State recognizes its top sophomore students in each of their academic disciplines. Justin Schmutz was selected as a top student in the Department of Agriculture and was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor fraternity based upon his academic achievements. Justin was also selected as a summer intern with John Deere and will be working in Urbandale, Iowa.
- ✓ Aubrey Wilson certainly caught the attention of coaches and players on the volleyball court of the Jayhawk Conference as she was named "Player of the Week" an incredible SIX times this year, and was selected as the "Player of the Year" for the Jayhawk West. Her Hutchinson Blue Dragons qualified for the National tournament for the fourth straight year where they lost their first match before winning their next three to finish ninth in the nation. Aubrey was selected to the All-Tournament Team and later was voted as 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-American.

These examples are quite a tribute not only to the hard work of these current and former students but also to all of their teachers over the years and to their parents for the support and encouragement that they have given.

Our students also have had success in the activities arena since last month's ECHO.

- ✓ The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6th Grade classes performed in their vocal/instrumental concert.
- ✓ Even though our Middle/High School vocal and instrumental students were ready for their concert on November 30, unfortunately the weather did not cooperate and it had to be canceled.
- ✓ Our wrestling program kicked off its inaugural season with considerable individual and team success at the Lincoln tournament.

It was apparent that these groups of students have been working hard at improving their skills and are gaining a great deal of self-confidence.

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 [jminneman@ellsaline.org](mailto:jminneman@ellsaline.org) or 785-225-6813 if you have any questions. I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

# Ways a Parent Can Help with **SPELLING**

1

Have your child write spelling words:

- On paper with pencils, pens, markers or paint
- With chalk on a sidewalk or patio
- With dry erase markers on a mirror
- Type on the computer
- With his/her fingers in a plate of pudding
- With fingers in shaving cream on a counter

2

Have your child spell the words out loud while you are in the car or in line at a store

3

Spell words using blocks, Scrabble tiles, or flash cards

(Make your own with index cards - one card for each letter. Consider using different colored cards for vowels)

4

If the list of words to learn is long, have your child choose 4-5 to focus on at a time

5

Have your child write the words in alphabetical order or in order from shortest to longest

6

Play "Hangman" with your child using the spelling words

Make crossword puzzles and word searches with the spelling words for your child to solve

7

Combine spelling with physical activity

Have your child do jumping jacks, saying one letter per jump, or while walking up and down stairs, saying one letter per step

8

Keep a dictionary in your home and help your child look up unfamiliar words



**Encourage your child to read!  
Good readers are often good spellers.**

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From USD 307 Ell-Saline: To all of our patrons, parents, staff and students, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Safe Holiday Season!

## DON'T BE FOOLED!

Yea! The state's tax revenue in November finally came in above the estimate by \$8M. That's great news, right? Hmm, let me think about it for a minute. Didn't I hear that in early November the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group lowered its estimate for the rest of the year that ends on June 30? Ah, yes, they did by \$159M. So let me think about this. If it was lowered by \$159M over the next 8 months (November through June) that figures out to be lowered an average of \$20M each month. So if November revenues were only \$8M over the lowered estimate, doesn't that still leave the State \$12M below what was originally projected each month as needed to balance the adopted budget? If that continues through the rest of the year then doesn't that still leave the State short by \$84M of making its budget? Why, yes, I believe it does. So just because the November revenue came in above estimate should I be cheering and fooled into thinking that all is well with our State's finances? No, it doesn't appear that way. We should all still be very concerned about where Kansas is heading in regard to meeting its financial obligations.

*Seth Schneider*



Seth Schneider is the High School Student of the Month. Seth is the son of Jerry and Christina Schneider, and has a brother, Justice, and two sisters, Jewell and Ashly. In school, Seth participates in Cross Country, Basketball, Track, and FFA. In his community, Seth is involved in the Brookville United Methodist Church Youth Group, Boy Scouts, and YMCA. In his spare time, Seth likes to attend derbies and races, run 5Ks, hunt, and fish. In the future, Seth would like to go to a Vo-Tech School to become an Auto Mechanic, Small Engine Repairman, or School janitor. Seth also has a special message: He would like to thank his positive role model, David Graf, for being a big part in his life, coming to his Cross Country Meets, supporting him even when he disappoints him, being patient and kind, being his friend, and helping him become the person that he is. Seth is glad to have him in his life. Congratulations, Seth!

# January Students of the Month

*Paige Vogt*

Paige Vogt is the December Middle School Student of the Month. She is the daughter of Jeff and Diane Vogt and has three sisters and two brothers. In school, she participates in Band, Basketball, Volleyball, Cheer, and PALS. She also made A Honor Roll. Her hobbies include playing basketball, cooking, and watching movies. Her plans for the future are to be a 4.0 student, attend KU, and play college basketball. Way to go, Paige!



# Ell-Saline USD 307

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Return Service Requested



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## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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

- |         |                                      |         |                                      |
|---------|--------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Jan. 1  | New Year's Day—Winter Break          | Jan. 18 | NO SCHOOL/Teacher In-Service         |
| Jan. 4  | Classes Resume                       | Jan. 18 | HS Boys BB Tournament @ Canton-Galva |
| Jan. 5  | 3:00 HS BB @ Trinity Catholic        | Jan. 19 | HS Boys BB Tournament @ Canton-Galva |
| Jan. 7  | 4:00 MS BB @ Bennington              | Jan. 20 | 1:00 HS HOA Scholars' Bowl @ Inman   |
| Jan. 7  | 4:30 HS BB Sacred Heart @ ES         | Jan. 21 | HS Boys BB Tournament @ Canton-Galva |
| Jan. 8  | NO ESE After School                  | Jan. 21 | 4:00 MS BB Marion @ ES               |
| Jan. 8  | ACT Registration Deadline            | Jan. 21 | 8th Grade Parent Night               |
| Jan. 8  | 4:30 HS BB @ Remington               | Jan. 22 | NO ESE After School                  |
| Jan. 9  | 9:00 MS "C" BB @ Southeast of Saline | Jan. 22 | K-State Band Clinic                  |
| Jan. 9  | 9:00 WR @ Ellsworth                  | Jan. 22 | HS Boys BB Tournament @ Canton-Galva |
| Jan. 9  | HS State KMEA Auditions @ Salina     | Jan. 23 | K-State Band Clinic                  |
| Jan. 11 | 6:00 MS/HS Site Council              | Jan. 23 | Fr. BB Tournament @ Smoky Valley     |
| Jan. 11 | 6:00 MS BB @ Minneapolis             | Jan. 23 | 9:00 MS "B" BB Tournament @ ES       |
| Jan. 11 | 7:00 BOE @ DO                        | Jan. 24 | K-State Band Clinic                  |
| Jan. 12 | Spring State Team Recognition        | Jan. 25 | 6:30 CPTA Meeting @ ESE              |
| Jan. 12 | 4:30 HS BB Bennington @ ES           | Jan. 25 | Fr. BB Tournament @ Smoky Valley     |
| Jan. 14 | 4:00 MS BB Trinity Catholic @ ES     | Jan. 25 | HS Girls BB Tournament @ BCCC        |
| Jan. 15 | NO ESE After School                  | Jan. 26 | HS Girls BB Tournament @ BCCC        |
| Jan. 16 | MS KMEA @ Junction City              | Jan. 28 | 4:00 MS BB @ Inman                   |
| Jan. 16 | Booster Club ESE BB Tournament       | Jan. 28 | HS Girls BB Tournament @ BCCC        |
| Jan. 17 | Booster Club ESE BB Tournament       | Jan. 29 | NO ESE After School                  |
|         |                                      | Jan. 29 | HS Girls BB Tournament @ BCCC        |
|         |                                      | Jan. 30 | 9:00 WR JV @ Marion                  |