

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Check for changes at www.ellsaline.org

- | | |
|---|---|
| Dec. 1 TBA HS KMEA Band & Choir @ Manhattan | Dec. 13 6:30-7:30 Read with Santa @ ESE |
| Dec. 3 HS BB Lincoln/Russell Tourney (Pre-Season) @ Russell | Dec. 14 7:30-3:45 FFA @ Hutchinson |
| Dec. 4 HS BB Lincoln/Russell Tourney (Pre-Season) @ Russell | Dec. 14 4:30 HS BB @ Little River |
| Dec. 6 4:00 MS BB Inman @ ES | Dec. 19 MS/HS Semester Finals |
| Dec. 7 HS BB Lincoln/Russell Tourney (Pre-Season) @ Russell | Dec. 20 8:20 Elementary Christmas Party |
| Dec. 8 ACT Test Date | Dec. 20 MS/HS Semester Finals |
| Dec. 8 HS BB Lincoln/Russell Tourney (Pre-Season) @ Russell | Dec. 20 End of Quarter/Semester |
| Dec. 10 3:00 MS BB @ Trinity Catholic | Dec. 21 No School - Teacher Workday |
| Dec. 10 7:00 BOE Meeting @ ESDO | Dec. 23 - 27 KSHSAA Non-Practice Days |
| Dec. 11 4:00 HS Scholars' Bowl @ Buhler | Dec. 24 - Jan. 2 Winter Break |
| Dec. 11 4:30 HS BB @ Canton-Galva | Dec. 31 New Year's Eve |
| Dec. 13 4:00 MS BB Sedgwick @ ES | Jan. 1 New Year's Day |
| Dec. 13 4:00-7:00 Santa Shoppe @ ESE | Jan. 3 Classes Resume |
| | Jan. 4 4:30 HS BB @ Sedgwick |
| | Jan. 5 State KMEA Band Auditions |
| | Jan. 5 9:00 MS BB "C" Tourney @ SES |



Friday, December 21st
7:00 pm — 9:00 pm

The Brookville United Methodist Church and Youth Group will host a live nativity scene complete with live animals and music at the Methodist Church. There will be refreshments served in the Fellowship Hall of the church including cookies and hot drinks. Come join us to celebrate the reason for the season.



Power Tech class is in need of **Briggs and Stratton engines** to overhaul. 3 1/2 to 5 horsepower engines are ideal. The engines do not have to run. Please contact John Johnson at the high school to donate. 785-225-6633.
Thank you.

The Ell-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. An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency

Return Service Requested

Ell-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. Halsstead Rd. Salina, KS 67401 (785) 827-8891
Non-Profit Organization U.S. POSTAGE PAID Brookville, Kansas Permit No. 2



ECHO
December 2012
EDITION

Check us out at www.ellsaline.org

NOVEMBER 12 BOARD MEETING REPORT

November 12 Board Meeting Report

Anita Bird and Jamie Bradley were both absent. Action taken was on a 5-0 vote unless noted otherwise.

7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

AUDIENCE WITH THE BOARD: None

REPORTS

2011-2012 Audit Review—Amy Dauer and Nick Dassow of Clubine & Rettele presented an overview of last year's fiscal audit. They reported there were no violations and were complimentary of the help given to them by Ann Krone, treasurer, and Susan Rose, clerk, during the process.

BOE – Jeff Parker reminded everyone of the SHESC Legislative Luncheon. Marty Kramer mentioned the youth basketball tournament sponsored by Booster Club on January 19 and 20 and said that all volunteers are welcome.

Mrs. Sprinkle – Her report included: state assessment security; classroom instruction needing to change to meet the needs of Common Core; Building Wide Behavior Expectation Plan; the Balanced Leadership training that the administrative team received; information from the KSDE Fall Conference and KAESP Conference; and gave a thorough review of the changes associated with Common Core, the goal during the transition period, the reasons for continuing to do better and cautions as we move forward.

Mrs. Wildeman – Her report included: information of various tests that Mr. Laas is giving to students; Kate Armstrong observed Mr. Johnson's classes for three days as she continues to prepare for a career in Industrial Arts education; student presidential election debate; Career and Technical Education conferences; HOA League Instrumental Honors Concert; and student blood drive.

Mr. Minneman – His report included: the district mill levy decreased by .197 mills to 55.837 mills as a result of the final assessed valuation; election report; state estimated ending balance being \$5.2M or 0.1% lower in FY 2013 (this year) and \$704.8M or 11.4% less in FY 2014 (next year); yesterday's in-service; KASB Annual Convention; and dates that he will be attending meetings out of the district before the next meeting.

BUSINESS

Bus Speed Limits—No action was taken. A proposed change in language for speed limits on 4-lane highways is to be brought back at the December meeting for consideration.

Approve New Hires—Lynn Davis was approved as the District Office Administrative Assistant/Secretary and Brian Morris was approved as a MS Boys' Asst. Basketball Coach.

Accept Resignation—Maria Tolliver's resignation as a translator effective December 21 was accepted.

Administrator Out-of-State Travel Request—The request for Mrs. Sprinkle and Mrs. Wildeman to attend a Common Core institute in Denver on November 29 and 30 was approved.

Board Policy Updates—Since this was the 2nd reading they were approved as presented.

Board Goals—These were approved as presented.

2011-2012 Audit Review—This item was moved to the REPORTS section.

2011-2012 Kansas Communities That Care Survey Results—The results indicate that our students feel safe both at school and in their community and that overall they are making good choices when it comes to the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

KASB Legislative Platform and Delegate Assembly Representative—These were discussed and direction was given for how our district will be represented at the Delegate Assembly. No decision was made as to which board member will attend.

There were no Executive Sessions. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, December 10 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 Geena Kejr or the District Office two weeks prior to the meeting.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

By the time you are reading this we will be knocking on the door to enter December. That means that winter is quickly approaching and with that comes the possibility of snow, ice, and general dangerous weather conditions. 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). 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 on Election Day, they meet twice a year in April and November, and they projected disturbing financial news. The disturbing news from the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group is a result of the tax cut legislation passed last year. Their estimation for the ending balance for this year (FY 2013) is a decrease of \$5.2M or 0.1%. 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. Of more grave consequence is their prediction of a \$704.8M or 11.4% decrease next year (FY 2014). That is roughly 2.5 to 3 times what was projected during last year's legislative session when the issue of tax cuts was being debated. If this projection becomes reality 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 11.4% of state revenue will impact you. To put it close to home, how would an 11.4% 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. Last year Governor Brownback proposed a change in the school finance formula that put more of the burden on the backs of local patrons. In his State of the State address he also talked about retaining 3rd grade students that didn't read at grade level. Although neither of these passed through the legislature last year there is a strong likelihood that they, as well as other proposals that are detrimental to K-12 education will be introduced again. Based on the Election Day results there are now enough conservative Republicans in both chambers that Governor Brownback can have all of his revenue and state service reduction proposals easily passed into law. I have heard one area legislator say publicly that he supports 3rd grade students being retained if they aren't reading at grade level. A sampling of other 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; closer adherence to the Governor's budget proposals, general fund, children's initiatives, etc.; 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; less familiarity with school finance issues; 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. With over 40% of the House and Senate members being new to their chamber this year I'm hopeful that they will be willing to listen to the opinions of their constituents and work on compromises that are in the best interest of their local constituents versus voting along party lines.

Our students have used several forms of communication this month as they gained confidence and showcased their talents. Nine of our top instrumental students (Sr. – Emily Work; Jr. – Mason DeArvil, Selecia Herrman, Garrett Schuman; So. – Levi Holcom, Jacob Hopkins, ToriLynn Miser, Tabitha Newton; Fr. – Morgan Parker), accompanied by Ms. Joan Grover participated in the HOA League Honors Instrumental Concert at Trinity Catholic School. That same week grades 5-6, under the direction of Ms. Amy Brandt and Ms. Joan Grover presented an outstanding fall concert. The MS basket-



Looking for a great gift idea???

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



Ladies T-Shirt (Burnout)



Stadium Chair



Ladies T-Shirt (Black/White)



Stocking Cap



License Plate (Red new one)



Baseball Cap (Red)

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 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 7th



THANK YOU for supporting Ell-Saline!!!!

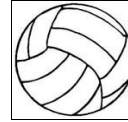
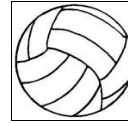
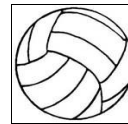


Congratulations

to the following for making the all-league

Football team:

TOBY OMLI 1ST TEAM RUNNING BACK,
 KALEB WHITEHAIR 1ST TEAM WIDE RECEIVER,
 ROSS ARMSTRONG 1ST TEAM TIGHT END,
 HUNTER BROOKS 1ST TEAM DEFENSIVE LINE,
 JUSTIN SCHMUTZ 1ST TEAM LINEBACKER,
 LUCAS BASE 1ST TEAM SAFETY,
 JARED WINTER 1ST TEAM PUNTER,
 GARRETT WALKER 2ND TEAM QUARTERBACK,
 HUNTER BROOKS 2ND TEAM OFFENSIVE LINE,
 EVAN MORRICAL 2ND TEAM OFFENSIVE LINE,
 ROSS ARMSTRONG 2ND TEAM DEFENSIVE LINE,
 EVAN MORRICAL 2ND TEAM DEFENSIVE LINE,
 KALEB WHITEHAIR 2ND TEAM CORNERBACK,
 TOBY OMLI HONORABLE MENTION LINEBAC



Volleyball team:

AUBREY WILSON, 1ST TEAM
 EMILY WORK, 1ST TEAM
 DARRIANE WIKOFF, HONORABLE MENTION

FFA Activities

The Ell-Saline FFA in conjunction with the American Red Cross held a Blood Drive on November 14. There are plans to hold another drive in the spring.



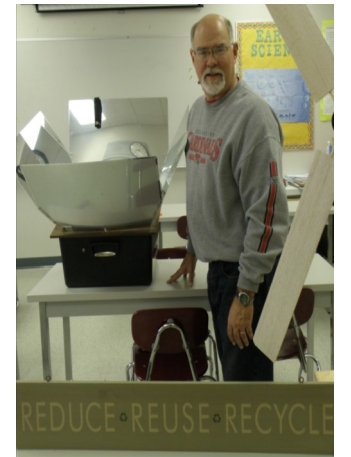
The Ell-Saline FFA in conjunction with the Brookville Methodist Church and Wilson Communications held a can food drive for the local community. The FFA collected food and it is distributed by the church throughout the community. Over 500 food items were collected. Wilson Communications donated \$500 to the cause.

ball teams under coaches Ms. Erin Marshall, Ms. Jeni Wolters, Mr. Brent Orme and Mr. Brian Morris have started their seasons. Our Grades 7-12 Instrumental and Vocal students put on a fantastic concert. Our HS Scholars' Bowl team under the coaching of Mrs. Ashley Hanson has participated in several meets. Our HS basketball teams, cheerleaders and dance teams under the direction of their coaches Mr. Curtis Pickering, Mr. Jeff Vogt, Mr. Doug Wilson, Mr. John Johnson, Mrs. Amber Fouard and Mrs. Cathie Norris will begin their seasons on Friday, November 30. 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 have been thankful for on last week's Thanksgiving Day.

STAFF/STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Chris Carazo is the November Staff Member of the month. Chris has been teaching at Ell-Saline for 26 years. Presently, he is the 7th grade science teacher, Activities and Transportation Director, assistant baseball coach, and Middle School Science Olympiad sponsor. He formerly taught social studies, computer applications, and math. A native of New Jersey, Mr. Carazo was lured to this area by Kansas Wesleyan University and has become actively involved in many organizations in his community. These include Ell-Saline Lions Club, Rural Fire Dist. #3, Saline Co. RWD#3, and Saline Co. Solid Waste Committee. Renewable energy and recycling have been special interests of Chris. He also plays tennis and enjoys spending time with his three grandchildren. Chris and his lovely wife, Suzie, are the proud parents of three Ell-Saline graduates: Megan, Amanda, and Matthew.



The November High School Student of the Month is Senior **Brittany Clancy**. She is the daughter of Kimberly and Robert Clancy and the older sister of Cody Clancy. Brittany is currently involved in FFA, softball, basketball, cheer, dance, F.O.R., Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and PALS. Outside of school she attends youth group at Brookville United Methodist Church.

Brittany's hobbies include playing sports and shopping. In the future, Brittany plans to play softball at Kansas Wesleyan University and become a Physical Therapist.

The November Middle School Student of the Month is 7th Grader, **Bryce Lange**. Bryce is the son of James and Debbie Lange and the brother of Erin Lange. Bryce participates in band, football, and Science Olympiad.

Outside of school Bryce mows lawns, and is an active member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Bryce's hobbies include playing his trumpet, drawing, playing football, and shooting.



MONTHLY PARENT LEARNING TIPS #4
USE THE HOLIDAYS TO PROMOTE LITERACY

Taken from RMC Research Corporation.

The holidays are a special time of the year that lends itself well to reading, writing, and other creative activities. Here are some ideas that will not only include your child in the holiday preparations, but will also show your child that reading, writing, and math have many practical uses.

- Let your child help prepare favorite holiday foods by reading and following the recipes.
- Let your child create homemade holiday greeting cards and mail them to friends and family members.
- View TV specials or check out videos of holiday stories. Talk with your child about the characters and moral messages in the stories.
- Take your child to holiday events sponsored by your city or town. Make it an educational experience by asking children to recall or describe what they saw.
- Get holiday stories on audio tapes from the library. Listen to them with your child at home or in the car. Ask the children questions about the sequence of events. Let them predict how they think the story will end.
- Buy blank cassette tapes. Have your child make up a story for the holidays or retell one that he or she has heard. Record these on the tapes and mail them to friends and relatives.
- When doing holiday shopping, let your child help figure out the cost of items, how much you spent altogether, and how much items on sale will cost.
- Let your child help write holiday cards and letters.

Thank you



The Ell-Saline Band would like to thank Pat & Tricia Weems with Jim's Chicken for their support and generous donation toward our fundraiser dinner.

We appreciate your kindness and generosity in supporting our band program.



**Help for Geometry,
Algebra 2,
Trig, and
College Algebra**



Is your high school student struggling in math?
 Have they missed class due to illness or extra-curricular activities?
 Do you have no idea how to help them?

Mrs. Phillimore has math tutoring for her classes
 at the following times:

- Monday: After school until 4:30
- Tuesday: After school until 4:30
- Wednesday: After school until 4:30
- Thursday: After school until 4:30
- Friday: Activity Period during school
 (unless other school activities are scheduled)

Mrs. Phillimore posts copies of PowerPoint lessons online.
<http://teacherweb.com/KS/Ell-SalineHighSchool/AmandaPhillimore/>

Khan Academy: <http://www.khanacademy.org/> This website has math tutorial videos for just about everything math!

Other online resources that may help:
<http://www.purplemath.com/>, <http://mathforum.org/>,
<http://www.mathopenref.com/index.html>,
<http://www.cliffsnotes.com/math-study-guides.html>

MS/HS Site Council Members



School Site Councils were implemented to advise schools on such matters as student learning, education programs, school improvement planning, and accreditation issues.

The purpose of a Site Council is to:

- Provide advice and counsel to the school in developing, implementing and evaluating school performance goals and objectives.
- Provide ongoing support for the students and staff of the school.

Membership consists of six to twelve members including community members, business community, school personnel, parents, students as well as teachers and the principal.

The Site Council meets in October, January, March and May at 6pm in the library.

**Please contact Susan Wildeman, principal,
if you are interested in serving on the Site Council.**



***Favorite Fruit &
Vegetable Poll:***



On November 6th Ell-saline students didn't just vote for a president, but also voted for their favorite fruits and vegetables.

When students voted for their favorite fruit, **apples** were a winner with 19% and **strawberries** trailed at 18%. **Bananas** and **watermelon** tied with 9%, and **grapes** and **pineapple** were also popular.

Though some voters claimed they didn't have a vegetable preference. **Carrots** were a clear winner with 23%. **Corn** and **potatoes** were also very popular.

There was a wide variety of foods listed in our votes, 17 different fruits and 16 different vegetables were listed as favorites. This proves that Ell-Saline students are diverse in their preferences and would be willing to try new foods.

Mrs. Nelson's nutrition class is working on finding a place in our lunch menu for a more diverse fruits and vegetable buffet in order to get everyone to eat their daily value portion of them.

We would also like to thank the Intro to Human Services class for setting up our voting booth.

Submitted by: *Taylor Albers, Sesely Omli, Cody Miller*