

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

Jan. 1 WINTER BREAK—HAPPY NEW YEAR
 Jan. 2 WINTER BREAK
 Jan. 3 Classes Resume
 Jan. 4 4:30 HS BB @ Sedgwick
 Jan. 5 9:00 MS BB "C" Tourney @ SES
 Jan. 7 6:00 ESIC Mtg.
 Jan. 8 4:30 HS BB @ Berean Academy
 Jan. 9 6:00 MS/HS Site Council Mtg.
 Jan. 9 6:30 Booster Club Mtg.
 Jan. 10 4:00 MS BB Bennington @ ES
 Jan. 11 ACT Test Registration Deadline
 Jan. 11 4:30 HS BB Canton-Galva @ ES
 Jan. 11 2011-12 Winter/Spring State Participants
 Jan. 12 FFA @ Denver, CO
 Jan. 12 9:00 MS BB "B" Tourney @ ES
 Jan. 13 FFA @ Denver, CO
 Jan. 14 TBA HS Boys' BB Canton-Galva Tourney
 Jan. 14 7:00 BOE Mtg. @ ESDO
 Jan. 15 TBA HS Boys' BB Canton-Galva Tourney
 Jan. 16 1:00 HS HOA League Scholars' Bowl @ Marion
 Jan. 16 FFA @ Abilene
 Jan. 17 4:00 MS BB Berean Academy @ ES
 Jan. 17 TBA HS Boys' BB Canton-Galva Tourney
 Jan. 18 TBA HS Boys' BB Canton-Galva Tourney
 Jan. 19 Booster Club EL BB Tourney
 Jan. 19 TBA HS Fr. BB @ Marquette
 Jan. 20 Booster Club EL BB Tourney
 Jan. 21 NO SCHOOL—In Service Day

Jan. 21 TBA HS Fr. BB @ Marquette
 Jan. 21 6:30 CPTA Mtg. @ ESEL
 Jan. 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 Jan. 22 HS Girls' BB Tourney @ ES
 Jan. 24 4:00 MS BB @ Canton-Galva
 Jan. 24 HS Girls' BB Tourney @ ES
 Jan. 25 KAAE @ Dodge City
 Jan. 25 HS Girls' BB Tourney @ ES
 Jan. 25 K-State Honors Band—Manhattan
 Jan. 26 Youth for Music
 Jan. 26 Xtreme Gymnastics
 Jan. 26 KAAE @ Dodge City
 Jan. 26 K-State Honors Band—Manhattan
 Jan. 27 Youth for Music
 Jan. 27 Xtreme Gymnastics
 Jan. 27 K-State Honors Band—Manhattan
 Jan. 28 4:00 MS BB @ Moundridge
 Jan. 29 4:30 HS BB @ Inman
 Jan. 30 4:15pm—8:15pm Parent/Teacher Conf.
 Jan. 31 NO SCHOOL
 Jan. 31 7:00am—7:30pm Parent/Teacher Conf.
 Jan. 31 TBA HS Regional Scholars' Bowl
 Jan. 31 TBA MS BB HOA League Tourney
 Feb. 1 NO SCHOOL
 Feb. 1 4:30 HS BB @ Bennington
 Feb. 2 Little Cardinals Dance practice
 Feb. 2 Regional Piano
 Feb. 2 TBA MS BB HOA League Tourney @ ES



ECHO

January 2013
 EDITION
 Check us out at www.ellsaline.org

USD 307 BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTIONS

If you have ever been interested in serving on the USD 307 Board of Education, this spring there will be an opportunity for you. Three of the seven positions are up for elections. The current members in these positions, are as follows: #4 Geena Kejr; #5 Marty Kramer, #6 Jamie Bradley. A district map with the positions indicated is located on page two. The filing deadline for these positions is Tuesday, **January 22, 2013 (at noon)**. Please contact the District Office if you have any questions about being a board member or about the filing process.

DECEMBER 12 BOARD MEETING REPORT

December 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: MAP and STAR assessments are almost completed; classroom visits are being used to look for evidence of moving towards the Common Core standards and for gathering building level data that will aid in making instructional decisions for the future; and the Elementary School Service Project wrapped up on December 10.

Mrs. Wildeman – Her report included: thanking the board for the opportunity to attend the Common Core Conference in Denver; FFA food drive surpassing its goal; update on Spanish classes; and the FFA organized Career Fair.

Mr. Minneman – His report included: student random drug testing results continuing to be negative; KEEP/McRel teacher evaluation comparison; read one thank you note; presented Jeff Parker with a KASB Certificate of Achievement for having attended numerous meetings this past year; and dates that he will be attending meetings out of the district before the next meeting.

BUSINESS

Energy Efficiency Audit—Following a presentation by Joe Hurla, 360 Energy Engineers, on the results of an initial system inspection that indicated a potential energy savings of approximately \$24,000 per year. The board approved 360

Energy Engineers to conduct a preliminary engineering audit that will give definitive information as to the breakdown of the potential savings. There is no cost to the district for either of these two studies. It is anticipated that the preliminary engineering audit will be completed by April.

Bus Speed Limits—The following language was approved for drivers to exceed the school district set limit of 65 miles per hour on 4-lane highways. "On 4-lane divided highways drivers may exceed the sixty-five (65) miles per hour limit to a maximum of seventy-five (75) miles per hour to help alleviate a dangerous driving situation. Once the dangerous driving situation has been alleviated the driver is to reduce speed to no more than sixty-five (65) miles per hour."

Common Core Information—Dana Sprinkle, Susan Wildeman and Jerry Minneman presented information that was learned at the conference in Denver and shared some of the new types of assessment questions that the students will be expected to master.

ESEA Resolutions—A resolution in a show of support for the teachers and students as we make the transition from NCLB to Common Core was adopted. A copy of the resolution is attached.

Accept Resignation—Susan Stateham's and Mary Counter's retirement/resignations were accepted.

Adopt 2013-2014 Calendar—The Blue Calendar option was adopted. This is the option supported by the staff by a vote of: Blue – 25, Lilac – 6, Green – 0.

FFA Out-of-State Request—Mr. Weis' request for seven students and himself to attend the National Western Livestock Show in Denver on January 12 and 13 was approved.

Fall Sport Supplemental Positions—This was tabled until the January meeting.

Select Board Negotiations Team—Anita Bird and Jamie Bradley agreed to serve in this capacity again this year.

There were three Executive Sessions (Personnel-2, Negotiations).

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, January 14 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.

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

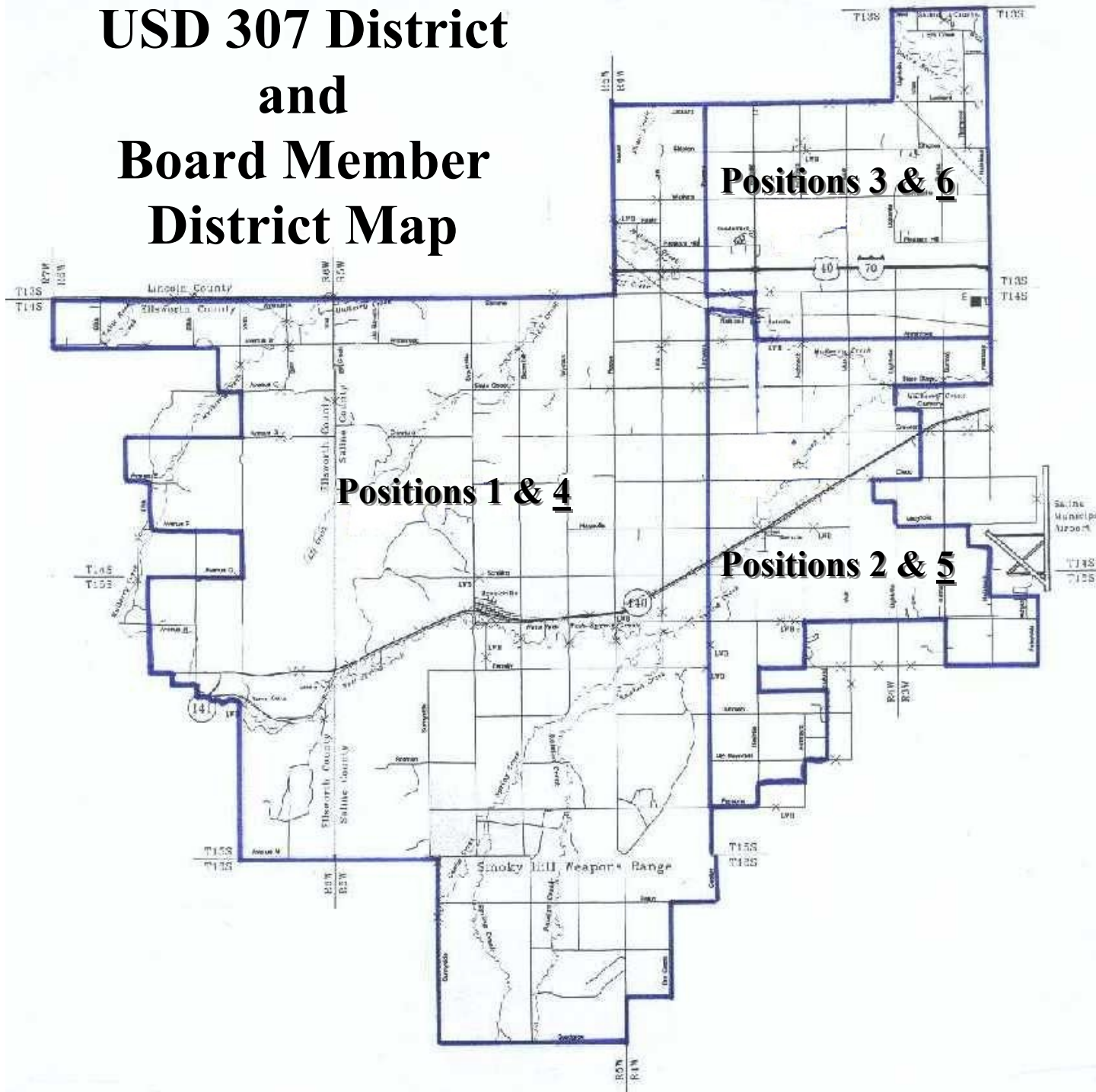
Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Brookville, Kansas
 Permit No. 2

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

Ell-Saline USD 307

Return Service Requested

USD 307 District and Board Member District Map



Positions 1 and 4—the area west of Powers Rd. from the northern to the southern edges of the district plus the area between Railroad Ave. and Stimmel Rd. east from Powers Rd. to Hedville Rd.

Positions 2 and 5—the area south and east of the following roads: Armstrong Rd. west from Halstead Rd. to Hedville Rd.; Hedville Rd. north to Railroad Ave. (except the entire town of Hedville which is Positions 3 and 6 area); west on Railroad Ave. to Powers Rd.; Powers Rd. south to Parsons Rd.

Positions 3 and 6—the area north and east of the following roads: Armstrong Rd. west from Halstead Rd. to Hedville Rd.; Hedville Rd. north to Stimmel Rd. and encompassing the entire town of Hedville; Stimmel Rd. west to Powers Rd.; Powers Rd. north to Lockard Rd.

At-Large Position—the area of the entire district.

Sunflower Spotlight

Celebrating Successes in Kansas Child Nutrition Programs

All schools featured as a part of the Sunflower Spotlight can be found at www.kn-eat.org, School Nutrition Programs, Recognition.

On October 6, 2012, the **USD 307 Ell-Saline** Wellness Committee used their Family Fun, Food and Fitness Event Mini-Grant to help support the Ell-Saline CPTA (Community, Parents, Teachers Association) Carnival. The event theme was “Go For the Gold” following the 2012 Summer Olympic Games, as Olympian’s eat healthy and train to be their best! The committee decorated with red, white and blue posters, USA Olympic parking signs, bumper stickers and decals found on clearance after this summer’s Olympic Games.

Participants had the opportunity to participate in two nutrition games including “Who wants to be a Foodinair” and “What’s on My Plate”. Food Service Director, Becky Walters, was present to talk about the choices needed on students’ lunch trays to make a Healthy Kansas Plate and also had nutrition information for students and their families to take home. Students had fun trying to improve their times playing “Go in’ for the Gold”. The competition consisted of timed ballistic cups, basketball shooting contest and timed rock wall climbing. Healthy prizes of fresh apples, oranges and pears were provided as an incentive for participants to partake in the various games! The carnival also featured a station where participants were encouraged to create their own winning bag of trail mix using different sized spoodles to show what a serving looked like.

The Wellness committee felt it was a huge success by teaching the importance of fun physical activity and healthy food choices in helping students and their families “Go for the Gold”.



The Ell-Saline FFA/Agriculture Business class organized, implemented, and hosted a career fair for the middle/high school on December 5th. The class spent many hours contacting career professionals, surveying students, and organizing the day. Thirty careers were made available for students to witness and ask questions to the professionals.

Several graduates of Ell-Saline were able to share with the students about their careers and what it took to get there. The day also had three keynote speakers. To kick off the day **John Donley**, a lawyer/lobbyist spoke to the students about the need to be dependable and have a good work ethic. **JJ O’Conner** with Waddle Reed spoke to them about investing and saving for the future. **Brandie Disberger** with Kansas State University spoke to them about goal setting, preparing yourself, and teamwork. A special thanks to all that helped. Many positive comments were heard about the presenters. It was a successful day.

Ell-Saline graduate **Tait Walker** talks to the students about his career as an EMT and fire fighter with the Salina Fire Department.



If you would like to participate in future Career Fairs, please contact Mr. Weis at vlweis@ellsaline.org.



A new organization has made its debut at Ell-Saline High School this year. Business Professionals of America (BPA) is the leading Career and Technical Student Organization for students pursuing careers in business management, office administration, information technology, and other career related fields. Students involved in BPA will be attending the state leadership conference in February and will be given the opportunity to compete in over 75 workplace skills assessments such as word processing, spreadsheets, computer security, banking and finance, entrepreneurship, interview skills, as well as many, many more. The top placing students in the state, in each category will be invited to compete at the national competition in May in Orlando, FL.

We are currently fundraising to earn money to pay for our trip to the state competition (and hopefully national competition). Bondi Bands (see picture below) are on sale now for \$10 each or two for \$16. Colors remaining are hot pink, lime green, red, and black. Please contact Ashley Hanson to purchase, or look for us selling them at our home basketball games, if you are interested in helping our students represent Ell-Saline with this new and exciting opportunity.

(You also might look half as cool as these familiar faces below!)

Bondi Bands
\$10 each or
2 for \$16



Writing on band:
Cardinals
our better is better
than your best



Thank You
Thank You

The Ell-Saline FFA would like to thank the community and patrons for helping the chapter.

We appreciate your support in our recent Fruit and Meat Sales.

If you have been overlooked, we have extra available. Contact Mr. Weis at vlweis@ellsaline.org.

Ell-Saline Lions Club
SOUP DAY
 Brookville Community Building

Cash prize drawing at 2p.m.  Free Will Donations

Saturday, January 19th,
11a.m.—2p.m.

Proceeds will go into the Ell-Saline Lions Club Community Fund.

RESOLUTION No. 114

"WHEREAS the Board of Education of Unified School District No. 307, Saline County, Kansas, understands that the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Waiver received by the State of Kansas provides relief from the regulations of the No Child Left Behind Act. Because of this waiver and the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), members of the Ell-Saline Board of Education support changes in district curriculum and instruction. Preparing for implementation of the CCSS and the new accountability system in 2014-15 is essential in order for all students to meet the College and Career-Ready skills; and

"WHEREAS the Board recognizes that there will be increased expectations for both students and teachers. Classroom instruction will need to be modified in order to challenge all students to use higher level thinking skills. The current narrow focus on annual mathematics, reading, social science and science assessments will give way to more meaningful assessments, which measure individual student growth and 21st Century skills.

"NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Board of Education of Ell-Saline Unified School District No. 307, Saline County, Kansas, in a regular meeting duly assembled this 10th day of December, 2012, do pledge their support for district staff making this instructional transition beginning during the current school year. Board members acknowledge that there could be some potential impact on student scores on the 2012-13 and 2013-14 state assessments as a result of this transition to the CCSS."

ELL-SALINE U.S.D. 307 BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Martin W. Kramer *Ashley Hanson*
Jim Bradley *John Farnell*
Gene Key *Amiea Boal*
Jill Pater

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the above resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Education of Unified School District No. 307, Saline County, Kansas, on the 10th day of December, 2012.

Susan K. Rose
 Clerk, Board of Education

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Although we had a few cold days last week to remind us that winter is getting close it certainly doesn't feel like Christmas is less than one week away. I'm afraid it's not looking like we will have a White Christmas this year.

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.

When we return from Winter Vacation one of the school improvement tasks that we will continue to work on is that of gearing up our curriculum to meet the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) which will be implemented during the 2013-2014 school year and fully assessed during the 2014-2015 school year. Both of our In-Service Days in November were devoted to writing Curriculum Maps for math. A considerable amount was accomplished but there is still much to be done on those through the spring semester. Our remaining In-Service Days this year will be devoted to finishing them. Next year we will complete work on the Curriculum Maps for English Language Arts (ELA). Our teachers are already changing some of their teaching strategies to better accommodate the increased expectations of student learning that exist with the CCSS. Much of the content that was taught at a specific grade level will shift at least one grade level below where it has been taught. The CCSS have a much narrower, but considerably deeper, focus on the curriculum. In math the students will not be expected to give only the answer but will also be expected to apply their knowledge to work through a problem and also be able to write an explanation of how they arrived at their answer. In reading students will go far beyond basic comprehension questions and have to provide evidence from the text to support their answers. You might be thinking, "This sounds like a great idea and is what is needed in the world of work. Why haven't we been doing this all along?" I agree, this is what is needed to better prepare our students for life after they leave us. However, under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) system everything was geared to doing well on the assessments and they were all Multiple Choice tests. All that was needed was for the student to be able to give an answer. The CCSS will require students to demonstrate that they understand how they arrived at the answer as well as give the answer. As we move from teaching our old way to gearing up for CCSS this year, we are not spending as much time in preparation of our current state assessments. As a result we might not see the kind of continued growth in student scores that we have seen over the past few years. These are only a couple of examples of how the transition to CCSS from NCLB is causing, and will continue to cause, stress and anxiety for our teachers and students. Our Board of Education recognizes the challenges that lie ahead of us and at the December 10 meeting passed a Resolution in support of our teachers and students as we go through this transition. Please see the Resolution on page 3 of this ECHO. When you see your child's teachers you might ask them more about the transition to CCSS and thank them for all of the work that they are doing to gear us up for it.

Thank you for your continued trust and confidence in the Ell-Saline USD 307 school district. As always, please feel free to contact me at 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!

State Scholars' Bowl



Ell-Saline High School will host the KSHSAA State Scholars' Bowl on **Saturday, February 9th** at the high school. Eight teams are involved with this activity. Four classrooms will be used for the competition. Start time is **noon** and will take about 3.5 hours. The following is a list of worker positions needed to have a successful scholars' bowl: moderators, head judges, subject judges, timers, scorers, buzzer operators, door keepers, statisticians and registration workers.

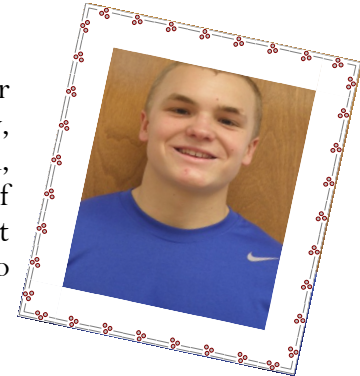
If interested, please contact either Susan Wildeman or Chris Carazo at the high school, 785-225-6633.

STAFF/STUDENT OF THE MONTH



The December Staff Member of the Month is **Brenda Johnson**. Brenda has been the Administrative Assistant at Ell-Saline for 15 years. Brenda enjoys keeping up with all of Ell-Saline's sports, decorating, and visiting her new granddaughter. Brenda is married to Ralph Johnson and has two sons, Lee and Lane, and one daughter, Paige.

The December High School Student of the month is Senior **Toby Omli**. Toby is the son of Tom and Susie Omli and the brother of Tate, Sesely, and Sydney. Toby's extra curricular activities include football, basketball, baseball, FCA, Senior class Treasurer, NHS, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and F.O.R. Outside of school he is a youth minister at First Covenant Church. Toby enjoys hanging out with friends and watching ESPN. In the future, he plans to play football and major in either engineering or business.



The December Middle School Student of the Month is seventh grader **Lyndsi Weems**. Lyndsi is the daughter of Tricia and Pat Weems and the sister of Alleigh Weems. Lyndsi is involved in basketball, FCA, volleyball, and band. In her community she is a library volunteer and a volunteer at a local veterinary hospital. In her free time, Lyndsi enjoys reading, listening and playing music, playing sports, and cooking. In the future, Lyndsi plans to attend an Ivy league college.

MONTHLY PARENT LEARNING TIPS #5 VISIT YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM

Taken from RMC Research Corporation.



Children love to have their parent(s) visit them at school. It makes them feel important and increases their self-confidence. Also, it lets them know that you, as a parent, value education and are interested in what they are learning at school. This is a chance for you to become better able to help in your child's learning. Here are some tips that will make your classroom visit be most successful.

- Unless you have been invited to visit the classroom at a particular time and date, contact the teacher to ask when your visit would be most convenient. If you want to observe a certain subject, such as reading, let the teacher know so that he or she can tell you when that subject is being taught.
- Take along some paper and a pen or pencil so you can take notes or write down any questions you have for the teacher.
- Try to arrive before the class begins so that you can better understand what the teacher and students will be doing that day.
- If at all possible, leave small children at home or arrange for a neighbor or another family member to watch them.
- Wait until the end of the class period to ask the teacher questions so that the flow of the lesson won't be interrupted.
- Be sure to ask how you can help your child at home with the lesson or other class work, if appropriate.



Attention: Animal Lovers!

Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure will be accepting applications for their Zoo Teen Volunteer program during the month of January.

The Zoo Teen program is for students 13 through 17 years old. This is a great opportunity for teens to gain valuable work experience and a chance to build their resumes. The teens will develop teamwork, public speaking, and the ability to work with people of all ages. This is especially valuable for students interested in teaching or the many fields of science: biology, conservation, environmental or animal science.

Whether you are interested in career exploration or you just have a love of animals and a desire to learn more about them, the Zoo Teen program could be for you! See Mr. Laas for application information and further description of the opportunities available to you this summer at Rolling Hills Wildlife Adventure!

The application deadline is **January 25th**, so check it out today!

Come spend some time on the wild side this summer!