

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK

Over the course of the past several weeks there has been a considerable amount of time and conversation aired over various social media venues, talk shows, and radio and television advertisements on the topic of the new Common Core Standards which are also known as College and Career Ready Standards. While the conversation is good to have, most of what has been presented as fact is either misleading or is totally incorrect. Therefore, my article this month will be focused on dispelling some of the most often made statements against the College and Career Ready Standards. In an effort this year to keep our parents and patrons informed on the Common Core Standards and progress that Ell-Saline USD 307 was making on implementing them, information has been presented through district and building level newsletters, SchoolMessenger calls, the Site-Councils at each school and at the monthly Board of Education meetings. I encourage you to contact any administrator or board member if you have questions about the new College and Career Ready Standards.

### **Question: Why did Kansas adopt the Common Core Standards?**

**Response:** The Kansas College and Career Ready Standards advance the State Board of Education's mission to prepare students for lifelong success by ensuring students graduate from high school with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in college or career. The Kansas educators who reviewed and provided input on the standards as they were developed were impressed by the standards' focus on not just content but also the deep understanding that provides the ability to apply knowledge in a variety of situations.

### **Myth: The Common Core Standards represent an intrusion by the federal government into states' rights to direct education efforts in their state.**

**Fact:** The Common Core Standards initiative was undertaken by states through the National Governor's Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers. Committees of teachers, school administrators, parents and content area experts comprised the committees that wrote and helped review the standards. The federal government was not involved in the standards development and there has never been a federal mandate for states to adopt the standards.

### **Myth: The Common Core Standards were developed behind closed doors by special interest groups.**

**Fact:** Parents, teachers, school administrators and experts from across the country together with state leaders, through their membership in the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), which for Kansas it was the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Dianne DeBacker, and the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) led the effort to develop a common core of state standards. In addition, CCSSO and the NGA Center provided public comment periods for everyone to submit feedback on the draft standards documents. Those comments were incorporated into the final standards.

### **Myth: The Common Core Standards "dumb down" expectations because they were written to the lowest common denominator.**

**Fact:** Far from "dumbing down" expectations for students, the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards were formed by the best available evidence and the highest state standards across the country and the world. They were designed by a diverse group of teachers, experts, parents and school administrators from across the country, and reviewed and adjusted by Kansas educators so they reflect both our high expectations for

students as well as the realities of the classroom. They were benchmarked to international standards to guarantee that our students are competitive in the global marketplace as well as at home. The objective was to develop a more rigorous set of standards in math and English language arts (ELA) in order to better prepare students for college and careers. The Kansas review committee believed, as do Kansas educators who are familiar with the state's new standards, that the adopted standards are much more rigorous than the previous standards.

**Myth: The Common Core Standards require states to significantly increase the amount of information collected about students and reported to the federal government.**

**Fact:** The Kansas College and Career Ready Standards are guidelines for schools regarding what students should know and be able to do in the areas of math and English language arts at the end of each grade level. The standards do not contain any requirements related to data collection at any level. Kansas has had a student level data system since 2005 and there are a number of data points the state is required to collect on students. Those data points include such things as date of birth, race/ethnicity, gender, program participation including status related to English language proficiency or special education, performance on state assessments and other items related to the student's educational needs and performance. The adoption of the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards had no impact on the state's data collection requirements.

**Fact: The Kansas College and Career Standards represent opportunities to:**

- Advance instruction – to shift the focus of teaching and learning away from Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and toward ensuring all students exit school prepared for college and career.
- Cultivate habits of the mind – approaches to learning that are intellectual, practical, and spur student success derived from research.
- Facilitate collaboration – among students, among educators, among disciplines, among states.
- Create fewer standards which in turn increases rigor and raises the bar of academic achievement while articulating those standards in clearer language that is advantageous to students, parents, and educators.
- Focus on results rather than means.
- Maintain flexibility and local control – by focusing on required achievements, the standards leave room for teachers, curriculum developers and states to determine how those goals should be reached and what additional topics should be addressed. **Kansas educators will still have the opportunity and responsibility to shape the learning that occurs in our classrooms.**
- Close the achievement gap between high school and post-secondary learning.
- Better prepare students for the necessary post-secondary steps to reach their chosen career aspirations.
- Overcome obstacles related to student mobility.
- Better ensure comparable curriculum from one classroom to the next for students who move among districts within a state or even among states. That, in turn, will mean student learning will be more likely to remain on track.
- Increase comparability in student achievement measures with other states using the same assessment aligned to the Common Core Standards.
- Advance an integrated approach to literacy with shared responsibility for all educators.

Thank you for your continued trust and confidence in the Ell-Saline USD 307 school district. You can be assured that your children are not only currently receiving a quality education but will continue to do so in the future. Please call or stop in so we can visit about the many good things going on in your district.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NOTE: MAY 17TH KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS WILL BE DISMISSED AT 11:00</b></p>	
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# MAY 13 BOARD MEETING REPORT



All board members were present. Action taken was on a 7-0 vote unless noted otherwise.

## 6:55 P.M. BUDGET HEARING

The amended budget to gain \$54,499 in General Fund authority was adopted. This is at no cost to our local taxpayers.

## 7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING

### AUDIENCE WITH THE BOARD

Shane Schneider addressed the board over concerns with Common Core.

### REPORTS

Parents As Teachers (PAT) – Christy Mai, the PAT coordinator, gave an update on numbers of families being served and activities conducted this year.

BOE – Jamie Bradley reminded everyone of the Cardinal Foundation Fundraiser that will be held on May 4 and that invitations have been mailed.

Mrs. Sprinkle – Her report included: state reading assessments are completed and the results look very good during the transition to Common Core; the math and science state assessments will be completed within the next two weeks; certified teachers will continue to work on the Math Curriculum Maps and gathering resources for Common Core instruction during the upcoming In-Service Days; the Schoolwide Leadership Team is coordinating two Parent Enrichment Nights for next school year with one in the fall semester providing information on math and one during the spring semester focusing on reading; the @EllSaline Twitter account has 62 followers; there will be an Elementary School Talent Show sponsored by CPTA at 6:30 on May 14; and we currently have 36 children on the list for Kindergarten RoundUp.

Mrs. Wildeman – Her report included: the state assessments are going well and scores are looking good; seniors receiving scholarships; we hosted a successful HOA Art Festival; spring sports participation numbers; teachers will be working on Common Core math practices in our remaining In-Service Days; and next year’s class schedule is being built.

### BUSINESS

Energy Savings—Joe Hurla, 360 Energy Engineers, presented findings of the Preliminary Engineering Audit. The board gave approval for 360 Energy Engineers to proceed with more in-depth studies.

Common Core Information—Information on the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) for Reducing the Non-Proficient number was presented as an information item only. This will be on next month’s agenda.

Resolution to Non-Renew—The resolution to non-renew next year the contract of Mr. Orme was adopted.

Accept Resignations—Kacia Marrs’ resignation and Karen Smith’s retirement effective at the end of this contract year were accepted.

Approve New Hire—Katie Swank was approved as the Elementary School Title I Reading teacher starting next year.

Licensed Personnel Positions—All of the current licensed personnel except for those previously acted on were approved for contract extension next school year.

MS/HS Student Handbook Changes— The changes were approved as presented.

Elementary School Parent Involvement Policy—This policy is a requirement of the Schoolwide Title Program and it was approved as presented.

2013-2014 Graduation Date—Next year’s graduation date was approved to be May 17.

There were two Executive Sessions (Personnel, Negotiations).

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

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

## **CARDINAL FOUNDATION APPROVES GRANTS**

The Cardinal Foundation Board met April 14, 2013 and approved the following grants. They also expressed their appreciation for the larger number of applications submitted this year and hope to see that number continue to increase in the coming years. This year the Cardinal Foundation had a total of \$5,705 to allocate for grants and of that amount \$5,636 was awarded.

Christina Jacquart: Purchase of various picture books, craft supplies and materials for ESE Family activities. \$900.00

Susan Wildeman: Funds to help with speaker fees from a Character Education/Bullying Prevention activity in February in conjunction with Southeast of Saline. \$500.00

Andrea Pickering & Susie Omli: Rental of a Starlab unit for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade use in their study of the constellations. \$200.00

Amber Fouard: Purchase of two 16GB iPad Mini's and one Apple TV for use in 1<sup>st</sup> Grade. This equipment would allow more opportunities for all students to participate with technology. The Apple TV will offer wireless connection with sound to the projectors. \$757.00

Robyn Parker: Purchase of four iPod Touch players for use by students in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade classrooms. The iPods will allow students intervention enrichment and practice time in an engaging manner. \$796.00

Glenda Minneman: Purchase of two 16GB iPads for use by students in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade. The iPads will allow students intervention, enrichment and practice time in an engaging manner. \$798.00

Lee Weis: Purchase of LabQuest 2 equipment which shows students the modern method of data collection and is designed for science and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education. \$885.00

John Johnson & Terry King: To help with the purchase of a Leg Press machine to use in Physical Education classes and by sports teams. \$800.00 (\$900.00 had been requested and the full purchase price is \$1,549.00.)

## **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL MINUTES**

The Ell-Saline Elementary School Improvement Council met March 26, 2013, in the ESE Meeting Room. In attendance were: Dana Sprinkle, Rhonda McDanel, Susan Stateham, Kim Parks, Mitch Drees, and Pam Dodd.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Corrections regarding the School Parent Involvement Policy were discussed and approved. The policy will now be sent to the board for review and approval.

Mrs. Sprinkle then reviewed the Behavior Expectation Plan changes and new working lunch policy. These changes have been communicated to all staff, students and parents.

Next, discussion about Back to School night was then held. Concerns from parents and staff were addressed. It was recommended to go back to two nights, one for dropping off supplies and meeting the teacher and another a week later or so for the classroom conference for parents. Will discuss with staff to gather more feedback.

Mrs. Sprinkle then presented information for the new AMOs (Annual Measurable Objectives for Assessments). AYP for accreditation will no longer be used. Schools will need to meet one of four AMOs each year. Ell-Saline will be using the Assessment Performance Index model for the next school year, the details of which were explained to the council members.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 1, 2013, in the same location.

## March Staff/Student of the Month



The March Staff Member of the Month is secretary **Becky Jones**. This is her second year as secretary. She is a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church. During her free time, Becky enjoys spending time with her friends and family, shopping, going to the movies, and playing any kind of card game. Her future will involve attending all of her three grandchildren's sports and activities. Their names are Drew, Ali, and Tara. Becky also enjoys spending time with her daughter and son-in-law, Bobby and Jericca Richardson.

The March High School Student of the Month is Junior **Garrett Schuman**. His parents names are Shawn Andrews and Richard Schuman. Garrett has two siblings named Madison and Zach. At school, Garrett is involved in band, choir, FCA, FOR, Forensics, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, and the drama club in which he is treasurer. In the community Garrett attends and runs soundboard for Grace Baptist Church of Salina. He enjoys playing the piano, writing poetry, reading, and learning Japanese. In the future, Garrett plans to attend college for either music education or Japanese.



The March Middle School Student of the month is seventh grader **Avery Bradley**. He is the son of Darcy and Jamie Bradley and the brother of Noah, Owen, and Sadie Bradley. During school, Avery participates in the Middle School Track and Field program. He loves playing basketball with his brothers after school. He plans to attend K-State in the future.



You did it!  
*Congratulations*



Indianapolis, IN (March 18, 2013) -- The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) is pleased to announce that **Christopher P. Carazo**, Activities Director at Ell-Saline MS/SR High School, has been recognized by this association as a Certified Master Athletic Administrator.

To earn this distinction, Christopher has demonstrated exemplary knowledge, contributions and on-going professional development in the field of interscholastic athletic administration. The voluntary certification process included a thorough evaluation of the candidate's education background, experience, NIAAA Leadership Courses and professional contributions. It is culminated with a practical written project.

Christopher is one of a very elite group of interscholastic athletic administrators nationwide to attain this level of professionalism.

The NIAAA is a national professional organization consisting of all 50 state athletic administrator associations and more than 8,000 individual members. It is dedicated to promoting the professional growth of high school athletic administrators and preserving the educational nature of interscholastic athletics and the place of these programs in the secondary school curriculum.

# Dig Into READING



## Join the 2013 Summer Reading Program

at Salina Public Library, 301 W. Elm

### June 1-July 26

Party! Prizes!

Games!



Visit the library, call  
825-4624 or go online to  
[www.salinapubliclibrary.org](http://www.salinapubliclibrary.org)  
for more information

## BENEATH THE SURFACE



## TEEN SUMMER READING

Salina Public Library  
301 W. Elm  
June 1-July 26

Sign up at the library or at [www.salinapubliclibrary.org](http://www.salinapubliclibrary.org)

## STUDENTS FROM ELL-SALINE HS VISIT COLLEGE CADAVER LAB



Front row, left to right: Brittany Davis, Darriane Wikoff, Brittney Walters, Brittany Clancy, Lissa Jacobson, Bryna Rietcheck, Amber Bird, Jonathan Whiteley, Luke Base, Missy Wimer, Garrett Walker, Dylan Williams, and Nick Younger.

Back row, left to right: Alisha Lewis, Baily Goddard, Morgan Scheibler, Tanner Parker, and Ethan Steinbruck.

(CONCORDIA, KS) – A group of students from Ell Saline recently toured the human cadaver lab and biology department at Cloud County Community College (CCCC).

The college offers these cadaver visits as a way to get high school students more interested in studying biology and other sciences in their post-secondary education. The students get a chance to meet and interact with college faculty and current CCCC students.

“I believe the visiting students have an opportunity to explore some of the possible experiences they could receive at Cloud, such as being involved in studying the human body utilizing cadavers. Very few institutions nationwide offer opportunities like these for Freshmen and Sophomores at the undergraduate level,” Tyrone Hughbanks, CCCC instructor of biology, said.

Cloud County Community College is one of only two community colleges in Kansas to have a cadaver lab and offer a Human Body Dissection course and utilize the cadavers in the Human Anatomy course. Each year 250 – 300 high school students tour the cadaver lab and listen to the presentation from Professor Hughbanks. Tours can be set up through the department’s secretary or by contacting Hughbanks at [hughbanks@cloud.edu](mailto:hughbanks@cloud.edu).

# April Staff/Student of the Month



The April Staff Member of the Month is Joe Roche. He has been the Social Studies teacher for 13 years, the Assistant Football Coach for 16 years, and the Head Baseball Coach for 13 years. In his community, he enjoys coaching the youth of Salina. He loves being with his family, running in Master's Track Meets, cycling, teaching himself the guitar, watching good movies, and also reading a great novel.

The April High School Student of the Month is junior Rachel Miser. Her mother's name is Vicki and a younger sister named ToriLynn. In school, she is heavily involved in FFA. In her community, she enjoys planting flowers and plants at the Smoky Hill Apartments. Rachel's hobbies include hanging out with her friends and family, and also playing catch with her sister. Her future plans are to graduate in the winter of 2013 then going to Hutchinson Community College to participate in the Horticulture program.



The April Middle School Student of the Month is eighth grader Riley McKain. He is the son of Holly and Mike McKain and the younger brother of Jackson. At school you can see Riley enjoying art class. Next year he hopes to be involved in drama and forensics. In the summer, Riley is involved in the Community Theatre Summer Stage productions. He loves to shop with his Mother, read a good book, and create art. He plans to go to K-State to study graphic art.



## MONTHLY PARENT LEARNING TIPS #10 CONTINUE LEARNING THROUGH THE SUMMER

Taken from RMC Research Corporation



Summer is often a time when your child gets easily bored. It is difficult to find activities for him or her to do. Sometimes local entertainment attractions don't fit into the family budget. Here are some low-cost or no-cost activities that will keep your child happy and learning all summer.

- Contact your child's teacher to find out whether the school offers any type of summer program.
- Ask your child's teacher for any recommended activities that you can do at home with your child during the summer.
- Help your child obtain a library card.
- Visit the local museum and park department to see what opportunities they offer for summer learning activities.
- Make time to spend with your child to continue learning over the summer months.
- Visit second hand stores to find books, games, and toys that can be useful in strengthening academic concepts.
- Find out whether summer activity programs are available from your church or local community organizations like the YMCA, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, etc.
- Call the tourist bureau for free copies of activities to do in your area. Specify that you want free or low-cost activities.
- Plant a garden with your child – then make some bouquets for others with the flowers and salads with the vegetables.
- Arrange for your child to volunteer at the local senior center, childcare facility, or hospital.

# 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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**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
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**Permit No. 2**



### An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency

The EI-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.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

May 1	7:45 HS HOA League Industrial Arts/Ag @ Marion	May 10	3:00 HS HOA League TR @ Bethel College
May 1	11:15-3:30 Gr. 5-6 Reading Celebration	May 11	1:30 High School Graduation
May 1	6:00 ESIC Mtg.	May 12	Mother's Day
May 1	MS/HS Site Council Mtg.	May 13	7:00 BOE Mtg. @ ESDO
May 2	Sr. Class Semester Finals	May 14	Regionals SB @ Ellis
May 2	4:30 SB @ Lincoln	May 14	Regionals BSB @ Sylvan
May 2	6:00 Senior Trip Parent Mtg.	May 15	6:30 Booster Club Mtg.
May 3	ACT Test Registration Deadline	May 16	11:30 All School Picnic @ ESE
May 3	Sr. Class Semester Finals	May 16	12:00 Kdg Recognition
May 3	3:00 HS TR @ Lincoln	May 16	1:00 Elementary Play Day
May 3	3:00 BSB Ellsworth @ ES	May 16	MS/HS Semester Finals
May 4	Senior Trip	May 16	Regionals BSB @ Sylvan
May 4	6:00 Cardinal Foundation Fundraiser @ C&W Ranch	May 16	7:00 MS Awards Night
May 5	State FFA Competitions @ KSU Manhattan	May 17	<b>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL 11:00 Dismissal</b>
May 5	Senior Trip	May 17	<b>* Kindergarten Students 11:00 Dismissal *</b>
May 6	AR Party in the Park	May 17	9:00 EL Pep Rally
May 6	State FFA Competitions @ KSU Manhattan	May 17	MS/HS Semester Finals
May 6	4:00 HOA League Fr/Soph TR @ Moundridge	May 17	3:00 HS TR Regional @ Herrington
May 6	6:30 CPTA Mtg. @ ESEL	May 17	End of Quarter/Semester
May 6	Senior Trip	May 20	Teacher In-Service Day
May 7	State FFA Competitions @ KSU Manhattan	May 21	Teacher Workday (Set)
May 7	11:00 MS HOA League TR @ Marion	May 23	State BSB/SB @ Emporia
May 7	1:00-3:30 Gr. 1-2 Reading Celebration	May 24	State BSB/SB @ Emporia
May 7	Senior Trip	May 24	State TR @ Wichita
May 8	6th Gr. Shadow Day	May 25	State TR @ Wichita
May 8	Senior Trip	May 27	Memorial Day—Observed
May 9	7:00 HS Awards Night	May 28	State FFA Convention @ Manhattan
May 10	8:30 Graduation Rehearsal	May 29	State FFA Convention @ Manhattan
May 10	1:00-3:30 Gr. 3-4 Reading Celebration	May 30	State FFA Convention @ Manhattan
		May 31	State FFA Convention @ Manhattan



# All Parents Are Teachers

Parents as Teachers is designed to provide children the best possible start in life. Using research based curriculum, parents are provided with the skills and knowledge they need to help them make the best decisions regarding their children's education. The program includes personal visits, group connections, health, vision, hearing and developmental screenings, and supports family connections with other community services. Parent educators work with parents to strengthen protective factors and ensure that young children are healthy, safe, and ready to learn.

## Events Calendar

Tumbling Tuesday  
Memorial Hall, 10th and Ash St.  
Tuesday, April 16th at 10 a.m.

Story time at the Rolling Hills  
Wildlife Adventure Zoo  
Saturday, May 4th at 10 a.m.

Party At The Park  
Brookville KS Park  
Thursday, June 13th at 10 a.m.

**MESSY NIGHT!**  
Party At The Park  
Brookville KS Park  
Thursday, June 20th at 6 p.m.

Party At The Park  
Brookville KS Park  
Thursday, June 27th at 10 a.m.

## Accomplishments!

The Ell-Saline Parents As Teachers Program has grown from 5 families to 15 families! A waiting list has been started and is continuing to grow! Way to Go Ell-Saline! Kindergarten class of 2016 is going to be filled with Parent Educated students ready for school success!

Ell-Saline's Parent Educator and Coordinator, Christy Mai, was selected by the Kansas Parents As Teachers Association Board of Directors to attend Ages and Stages Questionnaire training, qualifying her to train other professionals on the administration of the screening questionnaire.

## CONGRATULATIONS SMOKY VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Your Board of Education approved the implementation of the Parents as Teachers Program for the 2013-14 school year!! PAT Coordinator, Christy Mai, is currently working on the Grant to help fund and provide services to babies and children in the Lindsborg/Marquette area!

Please contact us today to be added to the Smoky Valley District waiting list! Home visits will begin July 1st! Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity! High 5 Vikings!



Smoky Hill

www.smokyhill.org

You are your child's favorite toy. There is nothing in the world your child would rather do than play with you! Use the ideas below as a starting point for the many joyful ways there are to explore, play, learn, and discover with your child.

### Talk Together

For your baby: Notice the colors that fill your baby's world. Point out his red hat, the green leaves, the orange tabby cat. Have a snack of yellow bananas, red strawberries and purple grapes. Look out into the black night and try to find yellow stars twinkling in the sky.

For your toddler: Once your child knows the names of colors, you can begin to use these words in context:  
-- Can you get your red sneakers?  
-- Would you like a green apple or a yellow apple for snack? You can also begin to expand your child's understanding of color by pointing out the difference between grass green and lime green, lemon yellow and golden yellow. April is the time when color begins to bloom outside

with flowers and trees. What colors can your child find in the world around him?

### Read Together

Read some colorful books. For babies, try *Spot Looks at Colors* by Eric Hill, the *Colors* board book by DK Publishing, *My Very First Book of Colors* by Eric Carle, or *Color Zoo* by Lois Ehlert. For older toddlers, good choices include *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See* by Bill Martin, Jr., *Frederick* by Leo Lionni, *What Makes a Rainbow* by Betty Ann Schwartz, *Planting a Rainbow* by Lois Ehlert, and *My Many Colored Days* by Dr. Seuss.]

### Play Together

For your baby: Make color trays. Take a muffin tray and in each opening place an object that is red, for example. You could place a strawberry, a red teether, a piece of red watermelon, a red mitten or sock, and a red foam ball (make sure it is not a choking hazard). Let your baby touch and play with these objects, but supervise closely since babies this age are likely to mouth things they find interesting in order to learn more about them. As your baby plays, you can repeat the word red: a red ball, a red strawberry, a red

sock. Try making trays of different colored objects.

For your toddler: Toddlers love to help out doing real jobs around the house. For colors, try a cooking project where you make a rainbow snack together. Pick out a range of healthy foods of different colors - yellow bananas, red watermelon, green grapes, blueberries, etc. Let your child choose what to have as his snack and talk about all the different colors he can eat. What does he think is the best-tasting color?



For babies and toddlers: Make a color book. Staple together 6 pages of construction paper (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple) to make a book. Write the appropriate color's name on each page. Let your child color pictures on each page. Cut photos from magazines and have your child glue these pictures on the correct color page (e.g., a photo of a red apple goes on the red page). Read your book together - what is his favorite page? An alternative is to take six photos of your child wearing a shirt of each color and gluing them to the appropriate pages.

-BV PAT



## Christy's Corner

### SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

Celebrate with crafts for the kiddos! Birds, bees, flowers and all the

wonderful signs of renewal that children revel in can be translated to fun projects. Need ideas? Check out:

[www.freekidscrafts.com](http://www.freekidscrafts.com)

[www.theimaginationtree.com](http://www.theimaginationtree.com)

[www.inlieuofpreschool.com](http://www.inlieuofpreschool.com)

[theeducatorsspinonit.blogspot.com](http://theeducatorsspinonit.blogspot.com)

[www.growingajeweledrose.com](http://www.growingajeweledrose.com)

With warm weather on it's way, flowers and PAT programs are blooming! The Smoky Valley District program will start July 1st and we are super excited to become a part of the community. So spread the word and lets PLAY to learn!

Our program is already a huge success in the Ell-Saline district. By working together, we can make sure children in our Kansas communities will be ready and able to enter kindergarten successfully. For more information or to schedule your free Home Visit call, text or email:

Christy Mai  
Cell: (620) 755 5599  
Phone: (785) 825 9185  
[cmaj@smokyhill.org](mailto:cmaj@smokyhill.org)

All families are welcome to join our PAT Events (listed on front). I look forward to meeting you and your little ones, lets grow our Parents As Teachers program together!