



Southwest 'Rider News



From The Superintendent - Dave Hendricks

New Building Update

In reviewing work being done on the new Jr/Sr high school I noticed my last year's newsletter article on the start of the project, "Work on the new secondary building located in Bartley officially began on Wednesday, March 5th, 2008 when the survey crew set elevation stakes for site prep work. Adams Construction began dirt work shortly thereafter and should be done with initial grade by mid-April". It was interesting to go back and review pictures taken at that time and make comparisons to the progress to date. You are able to see those pictures and all of the others on the school's web page at: www.swpschools.org. Click on "New Building Progress" on the right hand side of the homepage to see progress being made on the construction project.

New Building Contributions

Contributions to general or specific parts of the new building project continue to be accepted by the Southwest School Foundation. Contributions made to a specified item will be used for that purpose and general contributions will be used as the board of education approves them based on their need assessment. Areas of the project which were reduced from the original plans include: Site Landscaping, Auditorium Chairs, Auditorium Sound System, Gym End Pads (Crash Pads), Scorer's Table, Electronic Message Board, Commons Tables/Chairs, Gym Sound System, and Weight Room Equipment. To make a tax deductible contribution please contact Crinda McConville, Southwest School Foundation secretary/treasurer.

Board of Education Brochure

Inserted in this month's newsletter is a brochure informing patrons of the district's various aspects of the Board of Education. The brochure discusses the role of the Board of Education, the organization of the board, how the board receives complaints, types of meetings the board holds, public participation at board meetings, board code of ethics, board policies, and the district's mission statement. Besides this mailing, copies of the brochure will be available at each board meeting and in the office area of each school building. If you have any questions about this information, please contact the superintendent of schools at the Bartley site 308.692.3223.

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Special points of interest:

- April 10 & 13 - NO SCHOOL
- April 20 - Elem Spring Music Program 7:00 PM
- April 23 - High School District Music
- April 30 - High School Music Program at 7:00 PM
- May 4 - High School Honors Night 7:00 PM (Note change of date from April 27)

High School Life Science - Mrs. Probasco

On Friday, January 16, Jennifer Schutz from Arapahoe came to speak to the Inquiry Science class about Occupational Therapy. She is an occupational therapist at some area schools. She talked about the variety of opportunities. You can work with a variety of age groups; from infants to elders. She really likes her job, and listening to her talk about OT made me even more sure that I want to pursue that as my future career.

-By Abby Houghtelling

Dr. Chase Crawford, a pharmacist from the McCook Hospital, visited the fourth hour Biology class on January 29th. He came to tell the class about his duties as a pharmacist. Dr. Chase Crawford told about how he became a pharmacist, including which classes he took and to which schools he went. He also shared the pros and cons of being a pharmacist in a smaller town. When he was done talking, he had the students mix a solution for an IV bag and figure out a prescription. It was a good presentation for the class to hear.

-By Danielle Blume

On Thursday, January 29th, Mrs. Probasco's science classes were visited by pharmacist Chase Crawford of McCook Community Hospital. Mr. Crawford educated the students on all of the aspects of being a pharmacist and what schooling was required for that specific career. He told us about a

typical day he would have and answered any questions we asked. Towards the end of his visit to each class, he gave the students the tools necessary to start a dopamine drip along with a story problem to see how much of the drug was needed. After much trial and error, the students successfully figured out the problem (with his help) and actually got to inject the dopamine (simulated) into an IV bag. The whole experience was very fun and interesting.

-By Ashlee Minard

The Inquiry Science Class had Paul Sheets, a Physical Therapist, talk to our class on Thursday, February 5. He works at the McCook Hospital. He answered every question we had and was very informative. Quite a few students were interested in this career. Paul is an experienced therapist that does his job quite well. Paul encouraged students to get training before they become a P.T. to see if they like the career or not.

-By Kendra Cuellar

On February 27, Todd Probasco, an agronomist, came and spoke to our class for Science Career Day. He discussed the classes he took in preparation for this career. He also talked about what he does at his job, including performing bug counts and identifying weeds. He has to perform soil testing to identify what nutrients are needed. He recommended that if

you were interested in this career, you should take a lot of science classes and intern with Servitech.

-By Sierra Deterding

On Friday, February 27, Heather Probasco talked to our Anatomy class about her job as an occupational therapist. She told us about typical duties she has to do like help patients re-learn how to do daily activities and sometimes make house calls to patients. To become an occupational therapist you need a Master's Degree in it that takes 5 years to receive. Heather also explained that this job field is very open and needs more people to go into it. If you aren't sure what to major in, this could be a good occupation to look into. There are different areas of O.T. such as agriculture or using horses that you can branch out in if you have other interests as well. It was a very educational speech for Science Career Day and I'm glad I got the opportunity to learn more about this particular field.

-By Megan Conway

(She brought along different devices that her patients use, many kinds of splints made especially for that person to devices to help put on socks.)

First Grade Reading - Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Overton



Reading causes more concern among parents than any other subject. A key role in a child's

reading development can be played by his/her parents. Children must have reading skills to achieve in other subjects. They can't struggle with word recognition when they read for meaning and fluency. A child's earliest and most important learning takes place at home - being read to. Parents are the first teachers. Being read to

increases knowledge of the world, their vocabulary, and their interest in reading. They learn that reading is enjoyable, that pictures provide clues to the story, and that stories have a beginning, middle and end. Being read to repeatedly has an impact on a child's school success, and can give them a lifelong enjoyment of reading.

FBLA News



SOUTHWEST FBLA

Four Southwest FBLA members walked dogs at the McCook Humane Society during the afternoon of Saturday, February 28. This is one of the service projects the students who help out really enjoy.

Twelve members have been making final preparations for attending the State Leadership Conference which will be held in Omaha on April 2-4. They will each be taking four tests and attending two seminars in addition to the three general sessions.

UNK BUSINESS COMPETITION

Eight Southwest High School students attended the UNK Business Competition in Kearney on February 12. A total of 239 students competed in 17 various business competitions. Each of the Southwest students took tests in three areas. Holly Wolfe tied for first in Business English, was second in Filing, and fifth in Keyboarding I Speed. April Guthrie placed third in Marketing and fourth in General Business.



Counselor's Corner - Mr. Manker

On March 4, 23 students attended the annual Mid Plains Community College Inter-High Scholastic contest in North Platte. They did far more than just attend. They out scored every school in attendance. As a result of their outstanding performance, they brought home the Division I plaque even though we are a Division II school. Several scholarships were awarded to various students who placed. These scholarships will be announced at graduation. On March 18, 20 students attended the annual Inter-High days in McCook and again did an outstanding job, bringing home the second place Division II plaque, along with additional scholarships. They were only two points shy of winning first place. Need-

less to say, I was very proud of all who attended these two events. Not only have these students excelled in the area of academics, they have great character. I was proud to be representing Southwest schools at these events. I truly believe that kids are a product of their parents and as a parent I know you are equally as proud. Your kids shined!!! Below is a list of those students who placed at inter-high days.

This has been a very busy month with seniors aggressively pursuing various scholarships, working on college applications, taking entrance exams and bringing home the medals. Graduation is just around the corner as well as honors night. This year at graduation we will be honoring all of our

graduates who have a 4.0 GPA. Be sure and remind your senior to pay close attention to the scholarship deadlines. We have a total of 56 scholarships designated as local scholarships. Our scholarship committees will be meeting soon to select certain local scholarships. There are eight local scholarships that are decided by our school committee and five that are decided by the foundation committee. The foundation may also award additional scholarships based on funds available. The remaining local scholarships are awarded by various other methods outlined by the donors. See you next month for our last newsletter of the school year.

NPCC Inter-High Day North Platte March 4, 2009

Division I First Place

Megan Conroy	1 st Accounting
April Guthrie	1 st Health Occupations
Katie Messersmith	1 st Intro to Business
Kaleb Nielsen Sheffield	1 st Music
Erin Kelly	3 rd Music
Matt Esch	3 rd HVAC

MPCC Inter-High Day McCook March 18, 2009

Division II Second Place

Danielle Stephen	1 st MCC Facts
Lesley Ruggles	2 nd MCC Facts
Calvin Vontz	3 rd MCC Facts
Holly Wolf	1 st Keyboarding
Megan Conway	3 rd Accounting 2
Carley Kapustka	3 rd Sociology
Erin Kelly	3 rd Music
Tyler Leak	3 rd Business Concepts

Last Call For Southwest Year Books!

Order your book
for \$35.00.

Contact any school
Secretary Or
High School
Journalism
Student

Pre-School Notes - Mrs. May

Bear Week... Twenty bears came to preschool for a week. At reading time, the bears were placed on chairs and read to by students. At free time, the bears were fed, wheeled in buggies, and placed in block houses. The bears behaved very well. There were no melt downs or runaways!

Dinosaurs... We had a ROARING good time studying dinosaurs. We learned about meat eaters and grass eaters. And, of course, we

learned dinosaurs were hatched from eggs. Armed with toothbrushes and popsicle sticks, the preschoolers cracked open eggs to discover tiny dinos inside.

Nursery Rhymes... We are learning nursery rhymes both at school and at home. We had a scientific experiment proving the theory that when Humpty Dumpty fell off the wall, no one could put Humpty Dumpty together again...not even Super Glue!

Ladybugs... On April 20 ladybug larvae will arrive in our classroom. The females lay up to 100 eggs. They hatch into the larval state in 1 week.

The larval stage lasts 10 to 15 days, then go into the pupal state. After watching the progress of the ladybugs, the students will release the bugs into the flower gardens and send them on their way. Great way to head into summer!

Parents,

Just a reminder. Middle School students need to have **four** AR books completed this last semester of school. This is a requirement that has been going on for several years at the Middle School. We have many students who have completed AR for the semester. We also have several students that have not. Those students will have to have four books completed by May 1st. In April I will have students before school and after school to help them complete this requirement. If you would like to know where your child is at with AR books - PLEASE contact Mrs. Young. (308-692-3224) or dyoung@esu15.org

Thank you for your help,

Mrs. Young

Nebraska Severe Weather Awareness Week

National Weather Service has designated the week of April 6-10, 2009 as Nebraska Severe Weather Awareness Week. During the week, a different weather hazard will be presented each day on both NOAA Weather Radio All-Hazards and the NWS web site, www.weather.gov/goodland. The highlight of the week is the tornado drill, when NWS offices serving the state issue a test



Tornado Warning through normal communications channels. Similar to previous years, the test Tornado Warning and follow-up statements will be staggered throughout a one hour test time frame in the morning. The test warning for Dundy, Hitchcock and Red Willow counties will take place **Wednesday, April 8 at 9:40 am MDT (10:40 am CDT)**, and

will air on all radio and television broadcast stations, as well as NOAA Weather Radio All-Hazards. Everyone is encouraged to treat the test warning as if it were an actual emergency and review preparedness procedures. Most municipalities throughout the state will sound their tornado sirens at that time. **School officials are encouraged to send students to their designated tornado shelter and provide a review of safety information.**

Elementary News - Mrs. Rasmussen

Spring has sprung, and boy is going to be a busy one! This article will inform you of all the happenings in our building for the month of April.

April 6th has two important events. The first is Kindergarten Registration. Please call the office if you have a student who will be 5 by October 15th. We are offering 2 sessions, one at 9:00 am and one at 1:00 pm. There is no kindergarten that day for our current kindergarten class.

The other important event on April 6th is a Reading Curriculum night. The staff at the elementary has been working all year at selecting the right curriculum to increase student achievement in reading. Pending the approval of the Board of Education, we will be using Reading Mastery next year. Please mark your calendar for 7:00 pm and plan to attend to learn more about our new reading program.

High School News - Mr. Springer

We are now in our last month and a half of the school year and things are starting to get busy around the school. The students are gearing up to compete in interscholastic competitions. These are competitions that allow our students to show how much they have learned as well as win scholarships to attend various college institutions. The spring sport seasons have also begun and the kids are practicing each night to be

April 6th - 9th will be TerraNova Testing in the elementary. Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 will complete this standardized test. On these days especially please make sure that your child gets a good night sleep and has a well balanced breakfast. Encourage your child(ren) to do their best work. You will receive these results before the end of the school year.

The Bike Rodeo will be held on April 16th. On this day, students in grades one and three may bring their bike to school. That afternoon, Linda Maiden from State Farm will be working with students on bicycle safety. If students are unable to bring a bike there will be some available. Bikes will not be able to come to school on the bus.

The annual Elementary Spring Music Program will be held 7:00 pm at the high school gym on April 20. Students in grades K- 2 have

able to compete at the varsity level. The choir students competed at the RPAC contest on March 26th. Congratulations to them and Mrs. Fisher for their performance.

April has a few dates that are of interest for the high school students and parents. Easter break on the 10th and 13th. The FFA banquet is on the 16th at High School Gym 7:00pm. Prom is on Saturday the 2nd of May.

been working hard on a play entitled, *A Barnyard Moosical*. The band, PK and grades 3-5 will also perform that night.

Good Friends will wrap up another successful year on April 24th. I would like to thank all the adult Good Friends for volunteering your time. You all have made a positive impact on the lives of our third graders. The final meeting will be at 7:00 pm in the elementary school gym. Parents of third graders and Good Friends and their spouses are all invited. The 3rd graders will be presenting a play entitled *On the Radio*.

There are many field trips taking place in April as well. Please check for notes from your child's teacher concerning those trips. As we wrap up another year at the elementary, please feel free to stop in and visit. Your involvement in your child's education is important.

I would also like to remind parents that if their son/daughter is going to be absent please call in and let us know so we are not spending time trying to get a hold of someone to confirm they are ill. This is also a safety issue incase they had trouble getting to school we would no we needed to get a hold of the parents and inform them.

Third Grade and the Good Friends Program By Miss Holmes

For many years third grade has hosted the "Good Friends" program. This is a program in which each third grade student is paired with a community person and they become-good friends.

The Good Friends have been a great asset to our school and our community. The children and the Good Friends look forward to a scheduled get-together once a month Oct.-May. The children prepare a small program or presentation followed by snacks and then time to get to know one another.

The programs this year have been various activities that are a part of the school curriculum such as songs, plays, and stories. The time for interaction includes such things as word searches, playing UNO, graphing, coloring patterns, reading books, and practicing math facts, and just old fashioned visiting with one another.

There are many benefits for the students by participating in the Good Friends program. First and foremost, they have a new friend who will come to school and spend time with them and receive cards and letters. They learn how to treat an elder, learn manners and etiquette, take pride in showing what they have learned, and pride in their classroom.

There are also many state standards that the third grade students are working on without realizing it. The students practice reading, writing, listening and speaking each time we get together.

Everyone involved has a great time. It is something most of the students and the Good Friends remember for a long time.

For the children, the time spent with each Good Friend becomes a treasured elementary school memory.

We are so thankful for the Good Friends and all the time they put into the program. They make a difference in the children's lives in ways that we may not even realize as well as in making their third grade pal feel special.

Our final Good-Friends get-together for this year will be April 24. We will meet at 7:00 for an evening of desserts provided by the Good Friends and entertainment, provided by the Third Grade. The Good Friends may bring a guest and the students' parents are invited.

If you are interested in becoming a Good Friend, let us know.



Elementary Art News - Mrs. Kelley

Our featured artists this year have been Henri Rousseau and Claude Monet, both French painters with very different styles. The students enjoyed an interactive website where they could

make Rousseau-like jungle scenes (www.nga.gov/kids/zone/jungle.htm). They have been creating paintings of water lilies, bridges, and poplar trees similar to Claude Monet's Impressionist

paintings. They are doing a beautiful job! We will be showing some of our artwork at the elementary music program, so please have a look and see the wonderful work the students have done this year.

Czech Trunk at the Elementary - Mrs. Kelley

Did you know that the national Czech capital is in Nebraska, or that Nebraska has a higher percentage of citizens with Czech ancestry than any other state? The elementary classes have been learning about Czech heritage in Nebraska. We borrowed the Czech Trunk from the Nebraska State Historical Society Museum. The students learned about ancestry and heritage and that most of our ancestors came from other countries. They learned about

Czech clothing, food, music, crafts, and other traditions. They watched a video of the Wilber Czech dancers and learned about Sokol, a Czech gymnastics and fitness organization.

Wilber is the Czech Capital of the U.S., and it also happens to



be my hometown. Wilber has its annual Czech Festival on the first weekend in August every year, and it is attended by 40,000-50,000 people. The students enjoyed learning about it, and hopefully it will encourage them to find out more about their own family's heritage.

www.swpschools.org - New Web Page

Southwest School is happy to announce that a new school web page is up and running. Go to www.swpschools.org to: check your child's grades, view the daily announcements, read the newsletter, find out what's for lunch, or take a look at pictures of the new high school building. Also, the pictures on the main page are updated weekly, so be sure to take a look.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Southwest School personnel are interested in having good public communications with residents of our school district. We are willing to visit with people whenever they contact us with questions because we want everyone to have correct information. The only exception to patrons receiving complete answers would be when there are confidentiality concerns or comments that might injure someone's reputation, in which case we decline comment. When you have questions, comments, concerns, or complaints, please contact the people at school who are responsible for those areas. By doing this as the event occurs, your questions will be answered without becoming larger problems that are more difficult to solve.

Questions

1. Your child's schoolwork
2. Discipline
3. Bus Route
4. Class Schedules
5. Athletics
6. Health problems
7. School Regulations
8. School Board Policies
9. Student Absences
10. Lunch account

Contact

- Teacher & then Counselor or Principal
Teacher & then Principal
Principal or Superintendent
Principal or Guidance Counselor
Coach & then Athletic Director
School Nurse or Principal
Principal
Superintendent
Principal
Secretary

Southwest Schools

39145 Road 718
Indianola, NE 69034

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April 2009 Newsletter**