



Southwest 'Rider News



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT - Dave Hendricks

Facilities Closed Over the Holiday Season.

The Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) has a ruling requiring all member schools to close their facilities to practice and inter-school competition for five consecutive days in December. The Southwest Public School, in conjunction with this NSAA ruling, will close all school buildings December 24th-28th. During this five-day period only custodial staff will be in the buildings to do routine maintenance. Patrons of the district are reminded that the school facilities are also closed for their use during this time.

Building Project "Improvement Donations List" Discussed and Approved

At their November 10th meeting, the Southwest Board of Education discussed and approved a list of items still needed for the improvement of the new building project. Many of these items were left out of the bid during the "value engineering" to reduce overall costs of the building. Individuals or groups are welcomed to donate and will be recognized at the official ribbon cutting ceremony and open house.

Site Landscape	Trees, shrubs and grass.
Auditorium Chairs	All seating was removed from the bid. Each auditorium chair costs approximately \$200.
Auditorium Sound System	Much of the original equipment was removed from the bid. Replacement costs - \$20,000.
Kitchen Equipment	Some of the original equipment was removed from the bid. Replacement costs - \$15,000.
Gym End Pads (Crash Pads)	Approximately \$2,000.
Scorer's Table	Approximately \$3,000.
Electronic Message Board	Approximately \$2,500.
Commons Tables/Chairs	Approximately \$12,000.
Gym Sound System	Some of the original equipment was removed from the bid. Replacement costs - \$15,000.
Weight Room Equipment	Most of the current equipment will be used, but improvement estimate costs - \$10,000.

Donations for these items are being received by the Southwest School Foundation and are tax deductible. For details, please contact Crinda McConville, Les Roggenkamp, or Dave Hendricks for details.

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Special points of interest:

- Dec.1 - Elementary Music Program 7:00 PM
- Dec. 8 - High Music Program 7:00 PM
- Dec. 11—DARE Graduation 7:00 PM at the Elementary
- Dec. 19 - Early dismissal 2:00 PM
- Dec. 22 - Early dismissal 2:00 PM



Elementary News - Carrie Rasmussen

Happy Holidays! We have just three weeks until students are dismissed for Christmas Vacation. During those weeks we have a Music Program to present, Christmas parties and a Christmas Sing.

Our elementary music program will be held Monday, December 1st. That morning all of the elementary classes will be bussed to the high school to rehearse the program on the stage. The program will start at 7:00 pm. It will be held in the gym at the high school. Please have your child there at least ten minutes prior to the start of the show. All are welcome to attend!

December 22nd will be our Christmas Sing from 12:15 to 1:00 in the gym. Classroom Christmas parties will follow immediately afterward. They will run from 1:00 to 1:45. Students will then be dismissed at 2:00.

I would like to wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing everyone back on January 5th.

FBLA News - Abby Houghtelling

On November 1, FBLA held their area meeting in the lunch commons area at the high school. Six members and a sponsor came from McCook Community College, two members and a sponsor came from Wauneta Palisade, and Amber Kutnik from Cambridge, the FBLA State Treasurer, came along with the members of the Southwest chapter. At the area meeting

we played some games to get to know everyone, and also had breakfast for everyone. Amber Kutnik talked to us about being a state officer, and a member of MCC talked to us about PBL, which is the college level of FBLA. I think everyone had a fun time at this year's area meeting.

The Southwest FBLA Chapter held their annual food

drive for the pantry. It was a great success. The high school brought 143 items, and the elementary helped out a lot with bringing a total of 529 items. Overall, the FBLA chapter collected 672 items for the pantry.

On Wednesday, November 12, The Southwest FBLA chapter went to Wells Fargo Bank for an hour. The employees there were really friendly. The FBLA chapter was split into smaller groups, and went around listening to different Wells Fargo employees. They learned about credit reports, job interviews, and online banking. The president Bill Burton also talked to the groups about how his career decisions led him to the position he is at now. Overall, the trip to Wells Fargo was very informing.



Counselors Corner- Jim Manker

As we approach the end of the semester it is important for parents to stay focused on your son/daughters grades. The eligibility list is published weekly and parents are notified weekly when your child is failing any subjects. Having had the opportunity to study this weekly list, I have noticed that the vast majority of the students who are failing are a result from not turning in assignments. I encourage all parents to stay in touch with your child's grades by either contacting the school/teacher or monitoring your child's classes through infinite campus. Once a student loses credit in a required subject, it is difficult to make this up. Credits lost in a given semester just compound as the year's progress. Conflicts develop during registration with other required classes and the situation becomes more complex.

On November 17, all juniors took the ASVAB test and those tests

were interrupted to the students on December 2. This test identified skill levels of students. With the following data, students can begin to focus on their areas of strengths when making career decisions. This is just one more tool that can be used during the interpretation process.

On November 5, parents of all Juniors and Seniors received information pertaining to the career planning process. I wanted to mention another important factor that I left out in the letters: McCook Community College has a 50% reduction policy in place for tuition and fees. High School students ages 16 and above may now enroll in up to six credit hours each semester, of McCook Community College credit courses and receive a Walsh-Brady Grant equal to 50 percent of tuition and general purpose fees. These MCC credit courses can be taken online, ITV or on any MPCC campus. However, this does not include classes

that are being taken for dual credit. (high school and college credit) This is an excellent opportunity for students to complete some general study requirements that all colleges require. For example: College speech and music appreciation or art appreciation are usually always required in a college degree. It is possible for a senior to complete a number of college credits prior to graduation.

Financial aid seems to be a big concern for graduating seniors and on November 25, Cambridge schools held a financial aid workshop put on by Education Quest out of Kearney. Our senior parents were invited and I also attended. It was very informative and provided another resource for our parents. Remember that all graduating seniors should fill out the free FAFSA form as soon after January 1, as possible. You must have your 2008 income taxes completed first.

Choral Music - Patsy Fisher

We have been quite busy this semester. In high school, the students - Megan Conway, Erin Kelley, Kaleb Nielsen-Sheffield did a live audition for a chance to participate in the All-State Chorus. All three made it and attended rehearsals November 20th, 21st, and 22nd with the concert in the Lied Center at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday. It was a brilliant performance conducted by James Rodde of Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. We also were able to hear the out-

standing All-State Jazz Band performance

Several students have also tried out for UNK Honor Choirs, FFA Choirs, Hastings Honor Choir, and Wesleyan Honor Choir. We are still waiting to hear the results of these taped auditions.

Performances for this semester included the High School Dessert Theater featuring "Music-Past and Present" performed by talented band and choir soloists and

ensembles. The Middle School Program was on November 11th and the choral department featured a Boys Glee, a Girls Glee, and a Mixed Chorus. If you were able to attend either of these performances you know we have very talented students.

Our final performance for the year is the High School Christmas Program on Monday December 8th in the high school gym at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there.

EARLY CHILDHOOD RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Did you know that your school district in conjunction with ESU 15 have the following resources available to support families with children ages birth to 5 years of age? These resources are also available to support area child care providers.

Resources available include, but are not limited to:

- *Skill Building Opportunities For The Adults
- *Nutrition Information
- *Information on Typical Child Development in all areas:
- *Social-Emotional

**Cognitive/Thinking skills*
**Motor skills, (both big and small muscles)*
**Communication, (which includes hearing, speech, and language)*
**Self-help skills (dressing, bathing and feeding skills)*
We have resource staff available to provide screenings and assessments if you have questions about a child's skills in any of the areas mentioned.

The goal of your school district with the support of ESU 15's early childhood resource team is to **help families build healthy, confident, independent young learners**

who will be prepared to meet the educational challenges ahead. This support is provided wherever young children are learning and growing. A few examples of those places would be homes, daycares, community pre-schools, and baby sitters. Those places are the environments that learning is happening as a part of everyday experiences in the life of a young child.

Call your local school district for more information or call the Early Childhood Team directly at 1-866-345-7597.

High School Anatomy Field Trip

I think that the trip to Kearney was very interesting. I learned a lot about the jobs at the hospital. The presenters were very informative and interesting. They made it easy to stay focused on what they were saying. When we went to Kearney University it was cool to see the cadaver. The students presenting were good at answering our questions. It was interesting to watch the under

water weighing. I also learned a lot about the different fields you can go into at UNK.

- Katie Messersmith

I thought the Kearney Field Trip was very beneficial. The people who presented at the hospital were very knowledgeable and presented very well. I learned a lot about the different professions in the hospital and the schooling

needed to accomplish it. The cadavers were fun to look at, definitely not as bad as I thought it would be. Although the presenters (college students) were a little unorganized, it was still very educational. It is a very good place to take Juniors and Seniors, especially those interested in the health field, I learned a lot.

- April Guthrie

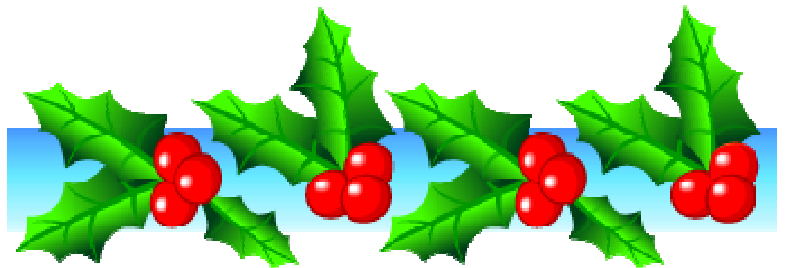
HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Remember to give Mrs. Harris your picture for the yearbook and the newspapers.

If you do not want the same picture for each, mark your pictures according.

All pictures are due to Mrs. Harris no later than January 16, 2009

Merry Christmas to all...



From Southwest Schools

Need a little help cooking your holiday turkey? Follow these tips from kindergarten...



Haylee- Put the turkey in the oven at a little degree. Bake it for 20 minutes. Take it out, and then eat it.

Justin- Stick turkey in the oven on 8 degrees with salt and red peppers. Bake it for 8 minutes, and then eat it.

Emmeleigh- Cook the feathers, stir them up and cook in the microwave for 17 minutes.

Bobbi- Put turkey in the oven on 3 degrees. Bake for 5 minutes, and then you cut a piece off and eat it.

Julia- Shoot a turkey then cook it in the oven on 8 degrees for 3 hours. After cooking put cheese on it with tomatoes.

Emily- Put the turkey in the oven at 2 degrees for 18 minutes. Put pepper on it and then you take some salt and then you eat it.

Rozelynn-Put it in the oven at 8 degrees, put grease on it. Bake the turkey for 18 minutes, and then take it out of the oven. Eat it.

Rachel- Shoot turkey! Cook it in the oven at 10 degrees for 5 minutes. Take it out and eat it.

Jake- Put the turkey on the grill. It needs to be 30 degrees for 34 hours. Put BBQ on it and spices.

Lanie- Cut the feathers off. Cut the gobbler and beak off. Put the turkey in a big boiling pot at 87 degrees for 70 hours.

Judy- Buy a turkey. Cook it for 18 minutes at 60 degrees. Take it out and put it on a big plate.

Allison- Cut a hole in the turkey. Put stuffing in it. Cook the turkey for 20 minutes at 70 degrees. Eat it.

Elaine- Put the turkey in the oven for 8 hours. Put it in the microwave. Take it out and let cool.

Bryson- Pick the feathers off. Put the turkey in the oven at 100 degrees. Cook it for 1 million hours. Put salt on it. Eat it.

Alyssa- Put stuffing in the turkey. Put it in the oven for 12 minutes at 4 degrees.

Brett-Put the turkey in a really hot oven for 20 minutes. Take it out and eat it.

Rhia- Put the turkey in the oven at 20 degrees for 41 minutes. Then we have to eat it.

Kassidy- Put salt on the turkey. Put the turkey in the oven for 7 hours. Pepper it. Eat it.

Happy Holidays from Southwest Kindergarten!



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THANK YOU

The Southwest Student Council and their sponsors Mary Foster and Kim Barnett would like to thank everyone who participated in the Red Cross blood drive at the high school.

Our goal was 37 units and we collected 39 units. We are planning to have another blood drive in the future.