

'Rider News

From The Desk Of R. Todd Porter - Superintendent

A big thank you goes out to all of those who attended parent-teacher conferences this past month. We had an excellent turnout and were able to answer many questions, making sure that we have students off to a good start.

One of the questions I heard more than once from a parent was "does my son/daughter have homework every night?" That can be answered in this way. Every student should either have an actual specific assignment from a class that they did not finish or was assigned at the end of class in some of their classes. These would definitely be considered the traditional homework that a student could have. They also could have an assignment that is due later on in the

quarter that could be worked on instead of waiting until the last minute. Preparing for an upcoming quiz or test *before* that test or quiz would be another "homework" item. Steady, even preparation would be much better than trying to cram it all in the night before. Reading, even just short amounts, would be another great way of keeping up on book assignments or covering material again for understanding. None of these have to be long, extended evenings of homework (not to say that there would never be a big homework night). So yes, having a period of time each evening dedicated to some academic pursuit would be an excellent habit to get into and make for a much more

successful student. Maybe not *every* night, but most.

Having a good, quiet place to do homework with a steady surface to write on is very important, as well. Keep distractions to a minimum is best. That can be a bedroom, the kitchen table, or any other good work area.

We have a project that has been brought to us by a local patron and hopefully someone can give us a bit of help with it. The old Bartley Jail has lost its sign and we would like to build a new one. If anyone has a picture of the original it would be a great help. We could take a copy of the photo to help us in the project. Bring it to the elementary or high school. It would be much appreciated.

Inside this issue:

High School News	2
Multi Media	2
Elementary News	3
FFA	3
Counselor's Corner	4
Second Grade	5
Honors Society	7

Special points of interest:

- Oct. 2 - School Picture Retakes @ 8:00 AM
- Oct. 10 - Homecoming Football game @ 6:30 PM
- Oct. 12 - Jr/Sr High Dessert Theater @ 2:00 PM
- Oct. 13 - NO SCHOOL Teacher In-service
- Oct. 13 - School Board meeting @ 7:30 PM
- Oct. 31 - NO SCHOOL Fall Break

High School News - Mr. Springer

The school year is now in full swing with students going in every direction. We have successfully finished the MAPS testing for the fall. These are very intense tests with four parts. (Reading, Language, Science, and Math) The students were focused and did a great job working to complete these tests. The test is used to evaluate our student growth each year. These tests also show us areas that we may need to expand on. The scores from those tests can be evaluated by subcategories in each subject area. The data is given to the classroom teacher to use as a tool for improving our student's educational needs.

The One to One computers are going out to the students. Many have already got the computers and some are still working to get the

proper paperwork in to the office so they can check theirs out. Although these are not mandatory we feel it is a great way to get our students prepared for the college life. Whether we want to accept it or not computers are the future. So we must get our students computer savvy before they graduate.

Some of you may have received a voice mail, text, or email that your students lunch account is low or at a zero balance. School protocol is students must have money in that account in order to eat the school lunch. We will send a weekly reminder on Sunday evening if your child's account is below \$30.00. Also, you can check your lunch balance on the infinite campus portal. If you would like help doing that please contact Natalie at the high school. I would also like all parents to please consider filling out the

free and reduced lunch application even if you don't feel you would qualify. It only takes a second and it could save you money. It also helps out our federal funding for those who do qualify. If you have not filled out the form please contact the school office and they can get a form sent to you. The results are confidential and you are not required to take advantage if you do not wish to.

Please take a second and look at our web site to see all of the upcoming events. Reminder we post school closings on the NTV site as well as send out messages from our blackboard account. If you are not receiving these messages or would like to be added please call Natalie @ 308 692 3223 and she can add your information.

Jr. High Multi Media - Ms Krause

The 2014-2015 school year is well underway and our students are in full learning mode! With this mode; our students have been bombarded with knowledge, support from teachers, and a great deal of advanced technology. As this technology has arrived, our junior high multimedia class has been learning several new things pertaining to the technological world. We have completed several projects using Microsoft Office products and have tapped into different mediums. Our biggest project has been to create and update a Southwest Junior High website.

Our multimedia class has been working very hard to keep our site

up to date and informative. We have been posting many different articles. These articles describe what is happening in our classrooms, the athleticism that is occurring with our sports teams, and inform readers about the events that are taking place within the junior high school. While our class has been working on our website since the beginning of September; we have not yet introduced it to the public. As young professionals, we want to make sure that our site is outstanding and that all of the information within it pages is accurate and interesting.

We feel as though our site is nearly perfect! You can be looking

for the Junior High School tab, created and maintained by our students, that will be the newest addition to our swpschools.org site!

Homecoming
October 10, 2014
6:30 PM
Eustis-Farman
Vs
Southwest

Elementary School - Mrs. Latta

September was a busy month at Southwest Elementary School. Our students have been working very hard on their reading, language and math skills, science and social studies knowledge, and p.e., art, and music activities. Also this month, our 2nd-6th grade students were assessed using the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests. Assessments are given in Reading, Language, Math and Science and are computer-based. MAP testing

was scheduled during the last two weeks in September for our baseline data. The students will take the tests again in late April/early May. From the results, we will be able to show the academic progress each student has made throughout the year.

Progress is once again being made on the renovation of our restrooms. Tile is being laid and the fixtures will be installed as soon as the floors are finished. We're

looking forward to having our two main restrooms in service once again.

The Good Friends program will begin in October. Postcards were sent to Good Friends who have been involved in the past. If you did not receive a postcard but would like to be involved in Good Friends, call the school at 364-2613. Jane Holmes and Karen Brown are the teachers organizing the activities.

FFA NEWS

Upcoming dates:

October 1st, Plant and Soil Science class to Land Judging in Alma.

October 3rd, FFA Concessions at FB games vs. Wallace

October 20th, Fruit Sales Begins (Turkeys, Hams, Beef Sticks)

October 21st, FFA Concessions at VB games (RPAC-Championships)

October 25th, National FFA Chorus (Ellie Brown)

October 29th-Nov. 2nd National FFA Convention, Louisville, KY.

September wrap up-

The Southwest FFA has been busy to start the school year. The chapter was able to attend the Nebraska State Fair on Saturday, August 23rd in Grand Island, NE. 44 FFA members were able to attend with five of the students competing in the State Dairy Judging contest. G. O'Dea, Wyatt McConville, Bailee Springer, Devin Carfield, and Kaleb Sughrue competed.

The chapter was rained out of its date to attend Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island. The chapter was planning to participate in the Monsanto Food Drive, Scavenger Hunt, and field days but will have to wait until next year.

The FFA completed two fundraisers in September. The chapter did concessions during a football game vs. Loomis. Darren and Courtney Pollmann, Jay Helberg, and Stacy Springer all pitched in for the game and assisted the chapter, thank you so much! The chapter also conducted a new fundraiser selling beef sticks of assorted flavors. Delivery is expected the last weekend of September or early October. This new fundraiser has been a wild success and raised funds to cover several chapter expenses.

Counselor's Corner - Mr. Loshbaugh

MAP ASSESSMENT

Map assessments were completed during the last week of September at the high school for all students grades 7-12. These assessments - in the areas of reading, language skills, mathematics, and science - are given twice a year and are valuable in helping track the progress of individual students at Southwest from year to year. Results from these tests will be sent out to parents when they have been compiled; talk with your students about their progress on these. If you need help interpreting the results, call the high school and we will be glad to go over them with you.

SENIORS

The deadline for registering for the October 25th test was September 19th - by paying a late registration fee, you can still register until October 3rd. The December 13th test registration deadline is November 7th. These two tests are your final chances to improve your scores to increase your scholarship opportunities. More information is available at www.actstudent.org

As a general rule, college applications should be completed and transcripts requested and sent to your top college choices by October 15th. We will be attending a college fair in McCook on October 14th. This will be a chance for you to get information about a number of colleges and universities and the programs they offer.

Senior students should also be compiling a professional resume. This includes all activities (community and school) and work related items. These can be given to teachers and community members when they seek references and letters of recommendation for upcoming scholarships and employment opportunities.

JUNIORS

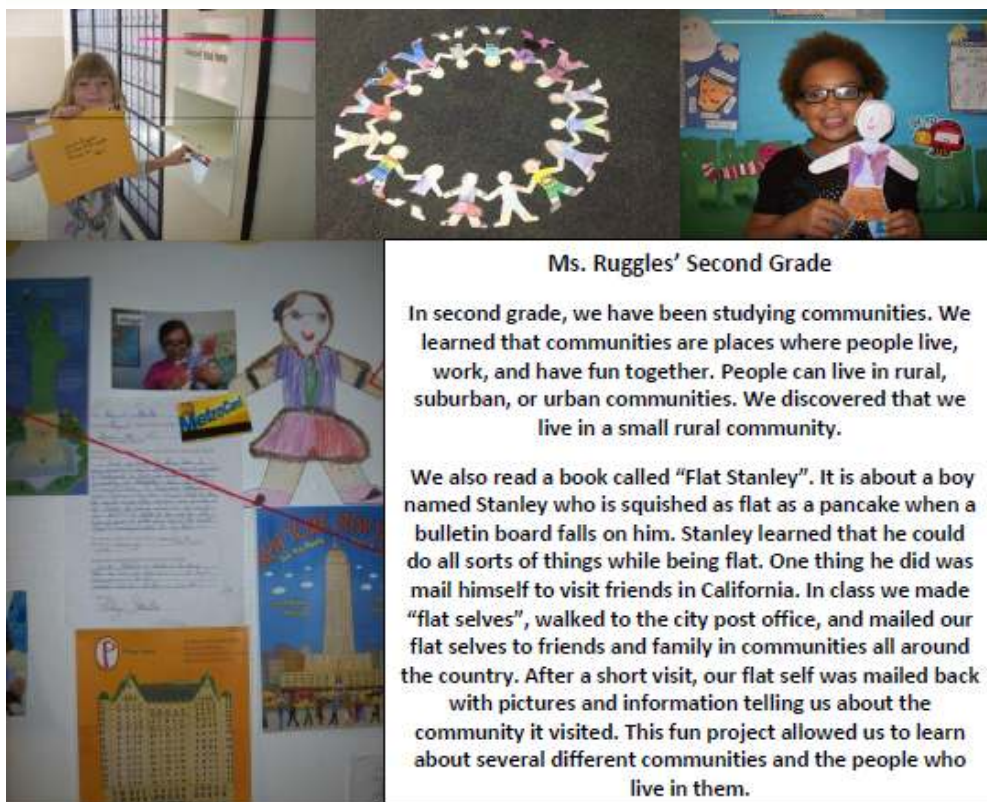
On Wednesday October 15th at 8:00 A.M. the PSAT/NMSQT test will be given. This test is given to all juniors at no cost to the student. It will be completed prior to lunch. High scores on this test can result in students being nominated for National Merit Scholar status.

Starting in January 2015 the John Baylor ACT Test Prep Course, consisting of 12 sessions, will be administered in Mrs. Slaten's English 11 class. This will lead up to the February 7th ACT Exam which I hope all juniors will consider taking. ACT test requirements are available at www.actstudent.org. More information including cost and test centers are also available on the website or in the counselor's office.

Juniors should also take advantage of the opportunity to meet with college representatives that will be visiting Southwest throughout the year. Upcoming college rep. visits include Northwest Kansas Technical on October 16th and Ft. Hayes State on November 4th.

SOPHOMORES

Sophomores were given the ASVAB assessment on September 17th. This is a test used to help students self-assess areas of strength and weakness in their academic background, to explore their individual interests and the variety of career opportunities related to those interests, and to determine what they need to do to prepare for those careers. The results from this test will be interpreted for the students on October 15th.



**Board of Education Meeting
Southwest Public Schools
District 179
September 8, 2014**

Vice President Tom Sughrue called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:40 p.m. on September 8, 2014 at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Present: Kevin Potthoff, Tom Sughrue, Steve McConville, Ondrea McConville, Steve Datter, Principals Matt Springer and Kathy Latta, Superintendent Todd Porter, and Patricia Smith.

Absent: Duane Teter.

Visitors: Mary Marsh, Cody Gerlach, Jody Hyke, Nick Brost, Don and Donna Behnke, Jenni McConville, Jason Kloepping, and Lynda Baumbach.

Vice President Sughrue observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

Moved by Potthoff, seconded by S. McConville, to excuse absent Board Member Duane Teter. Ayes: O. McConville, Potthoff, Sughrue, Daffer, and S. McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Teter. Motion carried.

Moved by O. McConville, seconded by S. McConville, to approve the board meeting agenda as presented. Ayes: Sughrue, Potthoff, O. McConville, S. McConville, and Daffer. Nays: None. Absent: Teter. Motion carried.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by the board-approved method of meeting notice. Notice of the meeting was given in advance to all members prior to the meeting date.

Superintendent Porter thanked the Board, on behalf of staff members, for arranging the Back to School Picnic. Ellie Adam was selected as a member of the

**Physical Science
Department - Mr. Helberg**

The Physics Kids have started their annual model rocket projects. We calculate the speed, acceleration, and force acting on the rocket. We also study the design and construction techniques to make the models fly well.

With the new computers the kids have, we have been doing some online assignments that they have to email to me with their new computers. They will also be using Google Docs to do some of their other assignments.

The Physical Science Class is working on Velocity, Acceleration, and Forces. Chemistry is starting to work with organization and setup of the Periodic Table. Why the elements are where there at on the table and how do they bond with each other.



continued. FFA National Honor Choir. The Freshman Dairy Judging Team (G. O'Dea, Wyatt McConville, Devin Carfield, and Kaleb Sughroue) competed at the State Fair Contest.

Moved by O. McConville, seconded by S. McConville, to approve the minutes of the August 11 and 27, 2014 board meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: O. McConville, S. McConville, Sughroue, and Potthoff. Nays: None. Abstain: Daffer. Absent: Teter. Motion carried.

Moved by Daffer, seconded by Potthoff, to approve the claims as presented. Ayes: S. McConville, Potthoff, Sughroue, Daffer, and O. McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Teter. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

Moved by S. McConville, seconded by Potthoff, to approve the published budget of expenditures for the 2014-2015 fiscal year for all district funds as presented. Ayes: Sughroue, S. McConville, O. McConville, Potthoff, and Daffer. Nays: None. Absent: Teter. Motion carried.

Moved by Potthoff, seconded by Daffer, to approve the resolution to set the property tax request for all funds for the 2014-2015 fiscal year as published and presented. Ayes: S. McConville, Sughroue, O. McConville, Potthoff, and Daffer. Nays: None. Absent: Teter. Motion carried.

The possibility of developing a tutoring program for elementary students by using the Good Friends Program was discussed by Board Members. The Board voiced the opinion to retain the Good Friends Program and research options for developing a tutoring program. Background checks on school volunteers would be discussed.

Duane Teter arrived at the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Moved by Teter, seconded by Daffer, to approve the 1:1 Computer User Agreement for Junior-Senior High School students as presented. Ayes: Daffer, S. McConville, Potthoff, Sughroue, O. McConville, and Teter. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The principals discussed action plans to address NeSA test performance and interventions.

Moved by S. McConville, seconded by Potthoff, to approve the bid by Martin Roofing in the amount of \$13,503.00 to re-roof the teacher-age and garage. Ayes: S. McConville, Daffer, O. McConville, Sughroue, Potthoff, and Teter. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Teter, seconded by Daffer, to approve the ratification of Brittany McConville as a secondary paraeducator. Ayes: S. McConville, O. McConville, Daffer, Potthoff, Sughroue, and Teter. Nays: None. Motion carried.

New Business Action Item 8 was tabled until after the Administrators' Reports.

Superintendent Porter reported on the elementary restroom renovation project, NASB Area Membership and School Law Workshops, arrival of practice gym bleachers, installation of an automatic door opener in the second set of doors at the elementary, and distribution of RPAC schools tax levy and request comparisons.

Principal Latta discussed MAPS testing beginning on September 18, and instructors' attendance at Professional Learning Community workshops arranged by ESU 15 to discuss curriculum.

Principal Springer discussed FFA activities, Mini Cheer Camp, Tri-Valley and Pinpoint Tail-Gate Parties, Parent-Teacher Conferences, 1:1 Computer Parent Meetings, MAPS testing, finalization of the football concession stand, and secondary staff attendance at PLC workshops.

Moved by Teter, seconded by S. McConville, to go into closed session to discuss the Superintendent evaluation and contract to protect the needless injury to the reputation of an individual at 8:51 p.m. Vice President Sughroue repeated the motion, and the Board voted. Ayes: S. McConville, Teter, Sughroue, Daffer, Potthoff, and O. McConville. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Vice President Sughroue declared the end of closed session at 10:18 p.m.

Moved by O. McConville, seconded by Potthoff, to adjourn the meeting at 10:19 p.m. Ayes: S. McConville, Daffer, Sughroue, Potthoff, O. McConville, and Teter. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Agenda for meetings will be kept continually current and available for public inspection in the office of the Superintendent.

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, October 14, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Elementary School in Indianola.

Budget Hearing

Southwest Public Schools

District 179

September 8, 2014

Vice President Tom Sughroue called the budget hearing to order at 7:31 p.m. on

September 8, 2014, at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Present: Ondrea McConville, Steve Daffer, Tom Sughrue, Kevin Potthoff, Steve McConville, Principals Kathy Latta and Matt Springer, Superintendent Todd Porter, and Patricia Smith.

Absent: Duane Teter.

Visitors: Mary Marsh, Cody Gerlach, Nick Brost, Jody Hyke, Jenni McConville, Lynda Baumbach, Don & Donna Behnke, and Jason Kloepping.

The Board was available to listen to support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of district patrons relating to the adoption of the proposed budget of expenditures for all district funds for the 2014-2015 school year and to consider amendments relative thereto. No comments were made, and no action was taken.

Moved by O. McConville, seconded by S. McConville, to adjourn the hearing at 7:34 p.m. Ayes: Sughrue, Potthoff, S. McConville, O. McConville, and Daffer. Nays: None. Absent: Teter. Motion carried.

Hearing to Set Final Tax Request

Southwest Public Schools

District 179

September 8, 2014

Vice President Tom Sughrue called the hearing to set the final tax request to order at

7:35 p.m. on September 8, 2014, at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

Present: Ondrea McConville, Steve McConville, Steve Daffer, Kevin Potthoff, Tom Sughrue, Principals Kathy Latta and Matt Springer, Superintendent Todd Porter, and Patricia Smith.

Absent: Duane Teter.

Visitors: Mary Marsh, Cody Gerlach, Nick Brost, Jody Hyke, Lynda Baumbach, Jenni McConville, Don and Donna Behnke, and Jason Kloepping.

The Board was available to listen to support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations from district patrons relating to setting the final tax request at a different rate than the prior year tax request. No action was taken.

Moved by Daffer, seconded by O. McConville, to adjourn the hearing at 7:36 p.m. Ayes: Sughrue, Potthoff, O. McConville, Daffer, and S. McConville. Nays: None. Absent: Teter. Motion carried.

Southwest National Honor Society - Mrs. Rice

The Southwest National Honor Society is again having their Little Caesar's Pizza Kits fundraiser that helps support our Community Service Projects throughout the year. We will be selling until end of the school day on Friday, October 20th. The pizzas will be in the afternoon of Wednesday, October 29th. If you are not contacted and would like to buy some pizza (or cookie dough!) please contact Mrs. Rice at the High School or one of the following students: Asic Helberg, Austin Minard or Jackson Porter, Jane Reiners, Ashlee Morosic, Kyle Van Pelt or Michael Lord.

We have already started planning our trip in November to volunteer our time as well as needed supplies at the Ronald McDonald House in Omaha. This charity gives the families of children who are being treated at the University of Nebraska Medical Center a place to stay. We will also be doing crafts with some of the children (both in-patient & out-patient) at the Children's Hospital that day.

WISH TREES: During the last week of November we will be setting up our Wish Trees in at Adams Bank & Trust and First State Bank of Bartley. Feel free to choose a star and help those less fortunate in our school district have a Merry Christmas! The gifts will be delivered by Santa's elves after school on Tuesday, December 23rd!

CAROLING: In December, the members of NHS, along with Santa Clause, will be Christmas Caroling in Bartley and Indianola the evening of Sunday, December 14th.

We want to thank everyone for your support of our organization and our service projects throughout the year!

Southwest Public Schools

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TOGETHER



Players, Coaches, Parents & Communities
**COMING TOGETHER
FOR ONE CAUSE.**

DATE/TIME: October 14, 2014

OPPONENT: Southwest vs. McCook

EVENT DETAILS: PINK OUT! Free popcorn for those wearing pink. Sponsored by State Bank of Bartley.

Purchase a pink t-shirt or memorial/survivor volleyball picture for the wall display. Go to www.swpschools.org for the order form or contact Mrs. Barnett at the high school. T-shirt orders due Sept. 26th. Make donations online at <https://www.side-out.org/campaigns/campaign8938>

*PROCEEDS FROM DIG PINK EVENT BENEFIT THE SIDE-OUT FOUNDATION / DIG PINK IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF THE SIDE-OUT FOUNDATION