

May 2016

## Southwest Schools

# 'Rider News

### From The Superintendent - R. Todd Porter

It is amazing that the end of the school year is upon us and we will soon be saying goodbye to another group of seniors. Best wishes to them in all their future endeavors. It is always interesting to hear about what life is like once they move on to college, service, or careers.

We would like to offer our patrons options on how they receive their newsletters next year. The cost of postage, printing and paper as well as the time folding and taping the newsletter is an area that we felt perhaps we could streamline by offering the newsletter electronically (by e-mail) for those who choose to receive it that way. Some folks have mentioned they like to put the calendar of

events and school menu up on the refrigerator but read the rest of the newsletter and throw that away. They could easily print the calendar or menu and use it that way. **Please be aware that we will continue to send the newsletter in its current form to all patrons who wish to continue delivery that way.** There are also folks who receive the newsletter who no longer want to receive it and would like to be taken off the mailing list. For any changes please call Natalie Meyers at 308-692-3223 and she will gladly make the change you want. We want to be as user friendly as possible and will gladly keep you on the regular paper list, put you on the e-mail list, or take you off all-together if that is

your wish. Just let Natalie know and she will take care of it. The newsletter will always be on our webpage, as well.

With summer almost upon us, it is important that all kids get a healthy break and get out and get plenty of exercise. It is also important, however, that they continue to exercise their minds, do some reading, visit a local museum, or get to a park. Have fun, but stay mentally active, kids!



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#### Special points of interest:

- May 2 - Elementary Spring Program. Pre-K thru 3rd @ 6:30. 4th - 6th @ 7:30 PM
- May 4 - Elementary Field Day at 12:00
- May 7 - Graduation at 10:30
- May 9 - School Board Meeting @ 7:30 PM in Bartley
- May 13 - High School Talent Night @ 7:00 PM
- May 17 - Last Day Of School. Elem dismissal at 12:45 PM Jr/Sr High dismissal at 1:00 PM

## High School News - Mr. Springer

The 2015-16 year has been a great educational success at the Junior/Senior high school. The staff and the students have spent a lot of time working toward reaching the goals they set back in August.

The month of May is a short month in terms of school. These are a few dates that you may want to keep open on your calendar. \*\*\*\* May 7<sup>th</sup> Graduation. \*\*\*\* May 17<sup>th</sup> is also the last day of school for 2015-16 school year. Teachers will be in and out the following week as they get their rooms ready for summer cleaning. Summer school will once again take place this year to help students catch up on credit recovery. In the Junior High the summer school

program is designed to get the students who may be low in English or Math skills extra help. This will hopefully ensure they are ready for the next level of course works when school starts. We will be posting the times and information about summer school prior to school being let out for summer. The class schedule for next year is finalized. We have spent a lot of time working to ensure students are able to take the classes they wish. If you have not visited with your child I would encourage you to ask them what they signed up for in the fall semester. The schedule is designed to fit the request students made earlier this year. So when the fall term hits it is hard

to make changes and still get the classes they want. We currently have 100% of the students in the classes they chose.

### HELP! HELP! HELP!

We are again hosting the elementary field day this spring. It was a great success last year and the kids really made a lot of good memories. They are very excited again this year to see if they can improve from last year. We are always looking for volunteers to help run the events or concessions. If you are available May 4<sup>th</sup> please contact Les Roggenkamp at the high school to volunteer your services. If you should have any questions please call or stop in.

## Jr/Sr High Art - Mrs. Kelley

It's been another busy and productive year for our high school art department. Sixty students took high school art this year. (That's over half of our students.) Art is about more than just making pretty pictures and pottery. It's about the process-the planning, creativity, and decision making, as well as the techniques and craftsmanship which go into each project. Hopefully, our students learn many lessons in the art room, not just "how to" make something, but also how to look at something artistically, how to think creatively, and how to problem solve when things don't work out the way they had planned.

Art is subjective. We can take the same artwork to different shows and get different results from the judges. That is why we take our work to more than one art show. Again this year we took artwork to the RPAC Art Contest, McCook Community College Art Show and Paint-in, and Fort Hays State Art Day. The students did very well at these art shows.

We also went on a field trip to Kearney in March where we visited the Museum of Nebraska Art (MONA) and the UNK art department. The UNK Art Department had displays and workshops for our students, including ceramics, printmaking, sculpture and Photoshop. At the McCook Paint-in we had two teams of students who had 2 ½ hours to come up with an idea and make a large painting on the theme of "Snowed Under." At Fort Hays State, the students set up our art pieces to be judged, then participated in a sidewalk chalk drawing competition, and saw demonstrations of various media of art. In the afternoon we also toured the Sternberg Museum in Hays. Our last display of the year was on Awards Night where each student showed at least two of the projects they made this year. Good job to our Southwest art students!

## Counselor's Corner - Mr. Loshbaugh

### SENIORS

- Any scholarships you receive should be viewed as gifts and treated as such. Please express your gratitude by writing thank you notes promptly. Also, be sure to make a list of all scholarships you receive to give to Mr. Loshbaugh for the graduation ceremony program.
- At graduation seniors will receive a packet containing many items needed to claim their scholarships and a final transcript. Please do not lose this packet.
- Be aware of orientation days at your selected college.
- Start a list of dorm room items.
- Check out the "Students Transitioning to College" section at EducationQuest.org.
- Tips for college loans: borrow wisely and borrow only what you need even if it is less than the amount offered in your award letter. File the FAFSA at [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov) each year you attend college, continue to look for scholarships while you're in college, and keep track of your student loan debt throughout college at [nslds.ed.gov](http://nslds.ed.gov).

### JUNIORS

- Continue campus visits and try to have your college choices narrowed to four (4) by the fall.
- Pay attention to the scholarships and awards this year's seniors are receiving. This will help prepare you for applying next year.
- This year's seniors had 2 students make RPAC all-conference Academic team by scoring a 24 or higher on the ACT. This is a nice award and makes it much easier to find scholarships.
- Please remember all college bound students should take the ACT 3-4 times by January 2017 in order to maximize scholarship opportunities.
- Register by May 6th for the June 11th ACT

## Field Day - Mr. Kennedy

The elementary field day will be held May 4<sup>th</sup> at the football field in Bartley. Elementary students will eat lunch in the high school commons area at 11:30 and the events will begin around 12:15. Each event will last for approximately twenty minutes. There will be limited concessions available.

The field day is not only a great way to get children excited about track, it's also a great way to get them excited about being active during the summer. Heading into summer, it's a good idea to set expectations with your child. Having a plan in place will help in aiding your child to be more active. Research suggests that an active childhood leads to a healthier lifestyle later in life, and builds the foundation for the social, psychological, and mental skills needed to succeed as an adult. Experts recommend that children over age six get at least sixty minutes of moderate-to-vigorous activity every day. A study published in 2007 in the American Journal of Public Health reported that the body mass indexes (BMI) of more than 5,000 kindergartners and first graders increased by almost twice as much during summer break as compared with the school year. Below are some ideas for creating an active summer for your child:

1. Turn off the tube: Be sure to limit your child to two hours of television/electronic use a day.
2. Make exercise a family affair: Children learn by example so make time to be active with your child. Activities such as going on a walk or bike ride, doing a scavenger hunt, having a water fight, washing the family vehicles, or gardening.
3. Create structure: Set a schedule for your child and make sure that it is followed.
4. Check out local activities: swimming pool, tee-ball/baseball, and the YMCA offers a number of summer activities for children.
5. Get friends involved: Children always have more fun doing things with their friends.

## Anatomy & Physiology - Mr. Brost

On Thursday, April 14th, the Southwest Anatomy and Physiology class went to the University of Nebraska Kearney to tour the Exercise Science Department. During the tour, students had the opportunity experience some of the research tools used by student in the Exercise Science Department. One of the most interesting was the Cadaver Lab. In the Lab, students were able to experience what it is like to study the human body in a cadaver lab instead of from a textbook. The other things we got to see included a Dexa-Scan and a VO2MAX test. During the Dexa-Scan, Drew Hofman was scanned by the machine and then it reported on his body composition, including bone, muscle and fat. In the VO2MAX test, Alec May exercised on a treadmill while wearing a monitor that measured the amount of oxygen he was using. This test helps tell how 'in shape' a person is and how hard they work while exercising. Everyone had a lot of fun while learning about Exercise Science.



## Elementary Quiz Bowl - Mrs. Deselms

On April 12, the Southwest Elementary Quiz Bowl Team competed in the ESU 15 Quiz Bowl hosted by Southwest High School. The team won first place and was undefeated with a 7-0 record.



Team members include: Front Row: Carter VanPelt, Raelynn Minary, Nathan Lytle and Jazmine Walz Back Row: Jesse Roland, Kassidy Wilcox, Kiana Martin, Isabella Townsend and Brie Shald

On April 25, Southwest Elementary hosted their own Quiz Bowl. We had four teams competing from 5th and 6th grade. First place honors went to the Southwest B team. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication this year!



## Music Contest Results - Mrs. Roggenkamp

The Jr. High Music was in Arapahoe on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Overall, we did pretty well. Here are the results:

Julia Holdcroft, vocal solo: I (superior)

Johanna Sughrue, clarinet solo: I (superior)

Jr. High Mixed Instrumental B (Lanie Overton, Kylea Stritt, Jadyn Brooks, Johanna Sughrue): I (superior); also won the Certificate for top Woodwind Ensemble

Jr. High Mixed Instrumental A (Alyse Foster, Elaine Roggenkamp, Rachel Moore, Kaylee Guerrero, Austin Brown): I (superior)

Alyse Foster, vocal solo: I (superior)

Lanie Overton, vocal solo: I (superior)

Lillie Schultz, vocal solo: II (excellent)

Emily Kircher, vocal solo: II (excellent)

Monica Geihlsler, flute solo: II (excellent)

Alyse Foster, flute solo: II (excellent)

Jr. High Mixed Vocal (John Stritt, Austin Brown, Kylea Stritt, Johanna Sughrue, Haylee Adams, Lanie Overton): II (excellent)

Malakye Brown, vocal solo: II (excellent)

Kylea Stritt, vocal solo: II (excellent)

Johanna Sughrue, vocal solo: II (excellent)

Jr. High Band: II (excellent)

Jr. High Choir: III

At the High School District Music Contest, we did very well. Here are the results:

### Superior Ratings (I)

Choir

Brady Porter, snare solo

Ellie Adam, vocal solo

Megan Helberg, vocal solo

Suzanne Roggenkamp, vocal solo

Shelby Nelson, vocal solo

Kailee Miller, flute solo

Karlie Swink, vocal solo

Brett Soderlund, vocal solo

Alex Porter, vocal solo

Alex Porter, tuba solo

Brady Porter & Alex Porter – vocal duet

Paul McConville, vocal solo

Paul McConville, piano solo

Stevie Wadle & Natalie Shald, bells/flute duet

Karlie Swink & Suzanne Roggenkamp – vocal duet

### Excellent Ratings (II)

4<sup>th</sup> Period Choir

Band

Bethany Nicholson, vocal solo

Brady Porter, vocal solo

Ashley Kragelund & Stevie Wadle, vocal duet

Suzanne Roggenkamp, baritone solo

Stevie Wadle, Shelby Nelson, Megan Helberg, Jacy Ahlemeyer – vocal duet

Ty Bennett, Brett Soderlund, Suzanne Roggenkamp, Karlie Swink, Jaydenn Miller – vocal duet

Congratulations to all the students! I was proud of all of them.

## School Board Minutes

Board of Education Meeting

Southwest Public Schools

District 179

April 11, 2016

President Duane Teter called the regular meeting of the Southwest Public Schools Board of Education to order at 7:32 p.m. on April 11, 2016 at the Southwest Elementary School in Indianola.

Present: Duane Teter, Ondrea McConville, Jenni McConville, Steve Daffer, Lynda Baumbach, Principal Kathy Latta, Principal Matt Springer, Superintendent Todd Porter, and Patricia Smith.

Absent: John O'Dea.

Visitors: Jolene Miller, Donna Behnke, and Jason Kloepping.

President Teter observed Open Meeting Law requirements.

Moved by Daffer, seconded by O. McConville, to excuse absent Board Member John O'Dea. Ayes: Daffer, O. McConville, J. McConville, Baumbach, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: O'Dea. Motion carried.

Moved by Baumbach, seconded by J. McConville, to approve the board meeting agenda as presented. Ayes: Daffer, O. McConville, J. McConville, Baumbach, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: O'Dea. 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.

John O'Dea arrived at the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Donna Behnke invited Board members to the Senior Breakfast scheduled for Friday, May 6, at 8:00 a.m. at the Indianola Christian Church.

Superintendent Porter informed the Board of student awards and accomplishments during the past month.

Moved by Daffer, seconded by O'Dea, to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2016 board meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: O. McConville, Daffer, J. McConville, O'Dea, and Teter. Nays: None. Abstained: Baumbach. Motion carried.

Moved by J. McConville, seconded by O. McConville, to approve the claims as presented. Ayes: Teter, J. McConville, Daffer, Baumbach, O'Dea, and O. McConville. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented to the Board.

Moved by Baumbach, seconded by O. McConville, to renew contracts of certified staff for the 2016-2017 school year, as recommended by Superintendent Porter. Ayes: Daffer, Teter, O. McConville, Baumbach, O'Dea, and J. McConville. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Baumbach, seconded by J. McConville, to approve the Cambridge Clarion as the district's official newspaper of publication. Ayes: J. McConville, Daffer, O. McConville, Baumbach, O'Dea, and Teter. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The Board discussed downsizing the number of newsletters mailed each month to parents and patrons cutting the cost of supplies, labor, and postage as the newsletter is available on the district's website and only mailing to individuals preferring a paper document. A Blackboard phone message and notices in the May and August newsletters would give individuals the option to contact the school with their decision.

Moved by O'Dea, seconded by Daffer, to approve the contract of Christian Arterburn for the 2016-2017 school year. Ayes: Daffer, Teter, O'Dea, J. McConville, Baumbach, and O. McConville. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

The Organization Resolution and Agreement for the Orscheln Credit Card Program was discussed with the Board. One board member and several district employees were given authority to contact the company concerning the district's account.

Moved by Baumbach, seconded by O'Dea, to approve offering and paying the full annual premium for a \$4,000 deductible HSA eligible health insurance plan for qualified nine-month employees for the 2016-2017 school year in accordance with the Affordable Care Act. Ayes: Daffer, Teter, Baumbach, O'Dea, J. McConville, and O. McConville. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Superintendent Porter reported on finalization of the junior-senior high gym floor project with the exception of installing carpet at the southeast entry. The Nutrition Services Administrative Review is scheduled at the elementary site for April 13. Mr. Porter plans to attend the NDE AQuESTT Conference and School Law Seminar.

Principal Latta reported on the finalization of MAPS Testing and the start of NeSA Testing, performances of students involved in the Missoula Childrens' Choir and the Arapahoe Music Festival, and upcoming field trips.

Principal Springer reported on the effectiveness of adding a ninth period twice a week to help students complete their assignments and be eligible for participation in extracurricular activities and performances and thanking the staff for their commitment to the program. Grade 7-11 pre-screening for sports physicals has taken place, and NeSA testing continues. After a conversation with the individuals performing the gym repairs, a portable gym floor cover and storage system approved at the March 14 meeting will not be purchased. Alec May was awarded the Outstanding Male Athlete at the Don Stine Track and Field Invite on April 11.

Moved by Daffer, seconded by O'Dea, to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. Ayes: O'Dea, Teter, J. McConville, Baumbach, Daffer, and O. McConville. Nays: None. Absent: 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, May 9, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. at the Southwest Junior-Senior High School in Bartley.

## Elementary Art - Mrs. Overton

"Creativity is intelligence having fun." –Albert Einstein

In the second semester of each art year, the students LOVE creating artwork with clay. It is always amazing to see their creativity shine in their projects. As their teacher, I show them the basic design or method I want them to use, and then let them loose. I have seen amazing bobble heads, intriguing sea creatures, intricate coil pots, as well as other impressive projects come out of the kiln this year. We truly have some fantastic artist in our school.

Summertime is the perfect time to let kids be creative. A report by Americans for the Arts states that "young people who participate regularly in the arts are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement, to participate in a math and science fair, or to win an award for writing an essay or poem than children who do not participate." I challenge parents and students this summer to find time to let your creativity shine. Grab a paintbrush, some air dry clay or even just a pencil and go for it; BE CREATIVE!



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