

# The Announcer



USD 470: Moving from good to *great* through quality education for *all* students!

## Partnership between parents, schools of vital importance



Dear USD 470 Patrons:

The partnership between parents/guardians of students and the school is one of the most impor-

tant relationships in the lives of our children. Although there are times when issues and differences arise, this partnership must be positive and mutually supportive of both parties. Many school district employees are parents themselves and certainly understand the very important and special relationship between the child and the parent.

We understand and expect that the child's strongest advocate should be the parent.

However, I would ask that parents understand that the vision and purpose of the Arkansas City School District also reflects advocacy for the students of the district. As a district, we want each and every student to be successful not only in school but also in life. We want each student learning to higher and higher standards and graduating from high school ready to take the next step in life.

The partnership between parents and school is of vital importance.

Working together for the students,

Dr. Perry L. Perkins  
Superintendent of Schools

### Information corner

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Daren Reese, president  
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#### Administration

Dr. Perry L. Perkins, superintendent  
Dr. Ron Ballard, asst. superintendent/  
business manager  
Dr. Jan Voss, assistant superintendent  
of curriculum and instruction

## Problems or questions?

Most often questions concerning the day-to-day operations of the schools are best answered by the teacher, coach, sponsor, principal or administrator working closest to that area.

It is recommended that problems or concerns first be taken to the teacher, coach or sponsor and second to the principal. If the situation still has not been resolved, it should be taken to the superintendent's office, and finally, if not resolved, to the board of education.

The central office will be pleased to direct you to the person who can best answer your questions or concerns. Call 441-2000 for such information.

## Reading tips for parents



According to the U.S. Department of Education, children who read well in the early grades are far

more successful in later years. Reading is defined as a "gateway skill to all learning." In the long term, students who cannot read well are much more likely to drop out of school and be limited to lower-paying jobs throughout their

lifetime.

What can you do to help? **Spend time reading to or being read to by a child.** The following are reading tips from the U.S. Department of Education:

- ✓ Read with your child every day.
- ✓ When reading a book where the print is large, point word by word as you read.
- ✓ Read your child's favorite book over and over again.
- ✓ Read many stories with

rhyming words and lines that repeat.

- ✓ Discuss new words.
- ✓ Stop and ask about the pictures and about what is happening in the story.
- ✓ Read from a variety of children's books, including fairy tales, song books, poems and information books.

## KAYS provide gifts for 34 local children

The Arkansas City Wal-Mart and the ACMS KAY group teamed up to make Christmas a little brighter for local children.

Wal-Mart presented the Arkansas City Middle School KAY group \$950 for the Toys Express.

KAYS provided gifts to 34 children this holiday season. Misty Lawson, sixth-grade social studies teacher and KAY sponsor, took 18 KAY members to Wal-Mart on Dec. 17, to shop for their adopted families.

"The kids did a fantastic job of picking out toys and clothes for the kids," Lawson said.

The group wrapped the gifts, which were distributed just days before Christmas to the parents of the children who received gifts.

The ACMS Lioness Club also donated gloves and mittens, which were distributed with the packages.

## 100s to participate in MS math contest

Hundreds of students from across the region will converge on ACMS for the annual Arkansas City Invitational Math Contest Saturday, Feb. 8.

Students in grades 4-8 will compete in written tests in three areas: geometry, mental math and problem solving. Students can place in any or all of the subtest areas, and the top 10 in each grade, in each category are honored at an awards presentation in the afternoon.

Volunteers grade tests, monitor classrooms, assist with the organization and presentation of awards, usher and assist with concessions.

For more information, call Jeri Crumbliss at 441-2030.

By Kristen Martinez, PR Director

Students at IXL Elementary did their part to help out families in need during the holiday season. The students collected \$289 in coins in "Change From the Heart." Then they used the money to buy food and other items for gift baskets distributed to families of IXL students.

The students who earned the privilege of shopping for the baskets are IXL Self Managers: Heather Sayre, Briley Sparlin, Silvia Valverde, Cheyenne Beach, Macey Tarrant, Alex Soth, Kendra Kirkbride, Kelsey Williams, Christopher Ritter, Juan Enciso and Brian Biggerstaff.

The students, along with Principal J.K. Campbell and PTO President Freida Jackson, went shopping Dec. 17, at Country Mart, 616 N. Summit. This is the third year the IXL students raised money to buy food for families who need a little extra help around the holidays.

This also is the third year Patty Clark, Country Mart owner, has helped with the process. Campbell said Clark gives the students a discount and also donates items.

Last year Clark donated toys for the baskets. This year she contributed sweets and candles.

"The kids need gifts too," she said.

The kids shopped from a list provided by the PTO and purchased all the "essentials" for holiday food baskets. The students then sorted the food into six baskets, one per grade level. The baskets were delivered to or picked up by IXL families Dec. 17.

"We really appreciate [Country Mart's] support. A lot of credit goes to Country Mart," Campbell said.

*IXL Elementary Principal J.K. Campbell looks on as students select items for holiday food baskets for families of IXL students. The students, all Self Managers, went shopping at Country Mart with Campbell and PTO President Freida Jackson on Dec. 17. After shopping, the students put together six baskets, one per grade level. The baskets were distributed to or picked up by the families on Dec. 17.*

Kristen Martinez/PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Anno

## ACMS reading program receives \$1,000 grant



*Students from Ann Hastings' and Brian Reid's integrated studies class accepted a check for \$1,000 from the Legacy Community Foundation on behalf of the Arkansas City Middle School reading program. The grant money will be used to purchase a reading program to help improve literacy.*

By Kristen Martinez, PR Director

**T**he Legacy Community Foundation recently awarded a \$1,000 grant to the Arkansas City Middle School's reading program to help improve reading literacy.

Ann Hastings, middle school language arts teacher, applied for the grant. She said the money will be used to help purchase Read Naturally, an instructional program strategy designed to increase reading fluency. The program specifically focuses on a student's reading rate, accuracy and prosody.

In her grant application, Hastings said ACMS has a significant number of special education, regular education and ESL students who read at the first-, second- or third-grade level. These students have poor comprehension, word attack and fluency skills.

Hastings heard about the Read Naturally program at an International Reading Association meeting in Topeka. The program is cur-

Kristen Martinez/PUBLIC RELATIONS

rently in use in the Lawrence Public Schools, and ACMS teachers feel this program would help difficult-to-reach students.

### **What is the Read Naturally program?**

Read Naturally consists of the following components: Placement Packet to determine appropriate reading level of the student, Sequenced Levels, Phonics series and Mexican American series. Each level includes 24 high-interest, non-fiction stories in blackline master, 12 cassette tapes and a teacher's manual. Each story also includes vocabulary words and comprehension questions.

"The goal of the program is to increase reading achievement," Hastings said. "According to the National Reading Panel Report, a research document based on the best judgments of a diverse group of experts in reading research and

Reading grant  
Continued on page 4

## AC FFA members earn national championships

By Cory Epler, ACHS vo-ag teacher

A team of FFA members from Arkansas City and Winfield earned a National Championship at the FFA National Western in Denver in January. Four ACHS students competed on the 4-H Livestock and Horse Judging teams.

The Horse Judging team won the National Championship in Denver. Team members were Emily Schmeidler from Arkansas City, and Kelsi Grow, Kaitlyn Crow and Erica Nowlin from Winfield. The team also placed first in halter classes, first in reasons and fourth in performance classes. Schmeidler placed sixth overall, fourth in halter and second in reasons. The team brought home more than 30 ribbons, trophies and other awards.

The Livestock Judging team placed third overall. Team members were Kasie Bogart, Clint Bryant and Blair Bryant from Ark City, and Drew Hedges from Burden. The team also earned second-place honors in cattle classes, swine classes and reasons. Bogart was the third-place individual and earned first in reasons, fourth in cattle and third in swine. Clint Bryant was the seventh-place individual and earned fourth in swine and seventh in reasons.

ACHS ag ed teachers/FFA advisers Matt Schweer and Cory Epler coached these 4-H teams and prepared the students for these events.

"If you know any of these students, please commend them on an outstanding effort," Epler said. "We are certainly proud of the honors they brought to our program, our high school, Cowley County and our state. In addition to their awards, the communication, reasoning, problem solving and analytical skills they are practicing will carry them throughout life."

## Reading grant

Continued from page 3

instruction, five areas are essential to improve reading comprehension: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and text comprehension."

She said Read Naturally will address the fluency component. The program combines three strategies for improving fluency: teacher modeling, repeated reading and progress monitoring.

Students will have immediate reinforcement of their progress as they graph their progress from the number of words they read correctly in one minute in a first "cold read" to the number of words read correctly after listening to the tape three times in a "hot read," according to Hastings. Improvement will be measured by progressing through higher reading leveled stories and improvement on the STAR test of reading comprehension.

Hastings said she plans to pilot the Read Naturally program with students in her integrated studies class, a class she team-teaches with Brian Reid, social sciences teacher.

### What is integrated studies?

The class is for struggling readers who want to be better readers and students, Hastings said. The students are selected by teachers and are in the class because they want to improve, she said.

"These students fell through the cracks; there's a really big void," Reid said. "They didn't get [the necessary reading] skills when they were younger."

To help improve their reading skills, the students read every day. They also listen to books on tape while following along with the printed book. Hastings said the students do a lot of partnered and individual reading. The students also write in a journal everyday.

The students are improving more

than just their reading skills.

"They've got a lot of confidence," para Tina Rice said. "They trust themselves a lot more" than at the beginning of the year.

"It's interesting to watch the students' change," Karen Tingley, interrelated teacher, said. "By the end of the year, they require less and less help. They try to find the answers on their own."

ACMS Principal Chris Anderson said that without the integrated studies class, the students would get to high school without a chance for a "fair shake." Not being good readers makes it hard for students to be successful in high school.

"The big thing is their confidence and the increase in reading scores; it makes a difference," he said. "They will be able, because of their own ability, to be successful. They don't need as much additional help. They find that they really do have the ability. They really want to be better. If you don't quit, you become successful."

Hastings said the USD 470 administration and board of education have always been totally supportive and have done all within their power to see that "we have more materials for struggling readers than most middle schools in the nation. We have many books on tape and also provide tape players."

This year, for the first time, the integrated studies class had a \$500 budget which was used to purchase additional players and contribute to the Read Naturally program.

Applicants for the Legacy grants must be nonprofit, federally tax-exempt qualified organization or other nonprofit, charitable or educational activities that the Foundation believes will enhance the health and well-being of children of Cowley County. Grant proposals were accepted for special projects and programs that place an emphasis on reading, literacy and vision.



## MUSIC NEWS

### Gackstatter selected for state KMEA honor band

Senior Evan Gackstatter, tuba, was selected to the state honor band through auditions that took place at Salina Central High School on Dec. 14. Students must first have been selected to their respective district honor bands to audition for state.

Gackstatter was selected from students throughout the state to participate in the Kansas Music Educators Associations State Festival to take place at Century II, 225 W. Douglas Ave., Wichita, Feb. 27 and 28, with a culminating concert on March 1.

### 15 chosen for K-State Honor Band Clinic

Fifteen ACHS band students participated in the 10th Annual Kansas State University Concert Band Clinic. The clinic was Jan. 24-26 at KSU, with a final concert in McCain Auditorium on Jan. 26. Five internationally recognized conductors were the clinicians.

The students participated in three days of rehearsals, clinics and master classes, leading up to the final concert. ACHS band students who were selected were: Andy Bohn, Connie Bucher, Andy Ebert, Shannon Lawson, Carine Lloyd, Velicia Looney, Drew McIntosh, Alissa Pankaskie, Gavin Richardson, Jayme Shriver, Kaeli Sullivan, Alicia VanGilder, J.T. VanGilder, Jacob Wallace and Jon Wright. ACHS band director Chris VanGilder and ACMS band director Hans Judd accompanied students.



# Simple steps parents can take to ensure successful parent-teacher conferences

By Jesse James  
GreatSchools.net staff

Just showing up for a parent-teacher conference tells the teacher that you support your child's learning. Here are four suggestions about what to discuss with the teacher:

**1** **Learn** about your child's progress. It's important to find out how your child is progressing academically as well as how s/he interacts with peers, if s/he participates in class and if s/he is well behaved. Listen carefully to what your child's teacher says, and ask yourself if you note similar patterns at home. If your child is in middle or high school, ask about whether s/he is on track for college.

**2** **Share** your insights with your child's teacher. A conference is a good opportunity to hear from your child's teacher, but it's also a perfect time to share your perspective. Remember, you know your child best. You can give the teacher valuable information that could help your child learn more effectively.

**3** **Discuss** your child's strengths and challenges.

Through comparing areas where your child excels with areas in need of improvement, you can identify ways to support your child's learning at home.

**4** **Ask questions.** This is one of the most important aspects of a successful conference. Here are some key questions to get you started:

✓ How much time should my child spend on homework each night? Does the teacher's estimate match with what you see your child doing at home? If it doesn't, share your observations with your child's teacher to generate possible solutions.

✓ How can I reinforce classroom lessons at home? Ask the teacher about activities, games or other

## Parent-teacher conferences this month

Feb. 17: MS evening conferences

Feb. 20: Elementary/MS conferences  
HS evening enrollment conferences

Feb. 21: Elementary/MS conferences  
HS morning enrollment conferences

Contact your child's school for more information.

strategies that you can use to further your child's learning at home.

✓ How can I stay connected? Find out ways to keep track of your child's progress, assignments and activities. Is there a system in place for parent communication or involvement? Discuss the best ways to stay current.

Do your best to make the most of your parent-teacher conference or back-to-school night. The more informed you become, the better you, your child and your child's teacher can work together as a successful team.

Article courtesy of GreatSchools.net, an independent nonprofit.

## Jefferson students spread holiday cheer



*Fifth graders from Jefferson Elementary School went caroling at Medicalodge East, 203 E. Osage, on Dec. 18. They were under musical the direction of Tamen Eis, music teacher.*

Kristen Martinez  
Public Relations

## NOTICE

USD 470's lunch and breakfast calendars will no longer be printed in The Announcer.

They are still available on 470's Web site [www.arkcity.com](http://www.arkcity.com). Click on the "Calendars and Notices" link to access them.

# Monday on the bus, from the bus driver's perspective

By 470 bus driver Trish Swopes,  
edited for length

**T**he morning starts early. Wake up, get dressed and wake the kids. You know, like most working parents, I head off to work.

I drive a school bus. I need to be at work early to have enough time to let the bus warm up. I check my bus gauges and lights to make sure they're all up and working properly. I head out for my first stop of the morning to pick up 56 children.

Through busy traffic, stoplights, stop signs, corners and railroad crossings I have finally made it to pick up the kids at stop number one! Kindergartners through fifth graders pile on the bus to find their seats. I have to assign seats to them to keep the little ones up close to make sure they get off at the right stop and make sure the ornery kids are close enough to keep an eye on.

I'm off to stop number two. Ok, did I make sure my kindergartner got off, yep! It's time for more kids to get on and find their seats. Turn the corner and wait for the stoplight. Did that guy just run a red light? Good thing I checked before pulling out into the intersection.

Now we're off to stop number three. Wow! A lot of kids just got off. Do a quick check in my overhead mirror to make sure I haven't forgotten anyone. Check my right side mirrors to make sure all the kids are away from the bus, because I have such a large tail swing that when I turn I wouldn't want to clip anyone with the rear end of my bus. Check the left side mirrors to make sure there aren't any cars coming and turn on my blinker. Now we're rolling.

At stop number four, I need to wait for the cars to get out of the school bus loading and unloading

zone. Sometimes I wait for quite awhile. Pull up next to the curb, wait for the kids to get seated, and we're ready to go. Oh my gosh! That parent just let their kids out in the middle of the street. Good thing I had my stop arm out or else that car coming from the other way might not have stopped. (On average, I have five cars run my stop arm everyday.)

Check the mirrors, and here we go. Another stoplight and a couple turns and off to the last pick up of the morning. It's a straight shot to the bus stop, but I have to take it slow and easy. Some drivers don't like to wait on school buses, they'll gun their cars and pull out in front of us. A bus ranges in weight from 26,000 to 36,000 pounds. It is difficult to stop suddenly; I often have to hit the breaks.

I have arrived at stop number five. We're almost done with the morning route. We're loaded and ready to go. Check my mirrors, start to pull away from the curb and stop! A parent just pulled up and let their kids off and they ran in front of my bus. As the parent speeds away, I check my mirrors again, and this time I'm clear for take off.

Another stop sign and four lanes of traffic and we're headed for the last stop. Eastbound lanes are clear, but westbound lanes are packed. I guess we'll wait. I check my overhead mirror and have to tell Mabel to sit down again. And wait. Finally it's clear! We arrive at the last stop of the morning and the kids get off the bus. I check the bus for sleeping kids and lost backpacks. Bobby forgot his lunch again. I run into the building and then off to the barn to park the bus.

Just another usual bus run. Un-

fortunately, it's not always this easy. We have the usual traffic and kids to look out for, but the weather conditions change things. Bad weather makes it hard to see oncoming cars and kids running late. The mirrors are harder to see out of when it's raining, and the sun is blinding at times. In cold weather, we go to work earlier to make sure the heaters are working, and if it's slick outside, it takes us longer to get where we're going. In hot weather, we put the windows down for the kids to get some air.

One route down for the day and two to go, and it's only Monday. I also drive for afterschool activities on Wednesday and Thursday.

In our school district, 1,100 students—about a third of all students—ride school buses daily. We have 23 bus drivers who take those children to and from school every day.

**See the related article, "Teach your child transportation safety," on page 7.**



## Date changed for ACHS blood drive

The date of the SAGE Red Cross Blood Drive at the Arkansas City High School was changed to Wednesday, Feb. 12.

This is the third year SAGE has sponsored the Blood-mobile at ACHS. High school students may donate blood if they are at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, are in general good health and have not been tattooed in the past 12 months.

# Teach your child transportation safety

**M**ost parents are concerned with what goes on inside their child's school. However, sometimes we forget that children have to get to and from school as well.

It is just as important to ensure that children and adolescents have guidelines and rules for traveling between home and school. Parents can go a long way in reinforcing the regulations and safety measures that teachers, administrators and bus drivers have for school transportation.

## Hail to the bus driver

Here are some tips for parents with children who ride the bus, or a similar vehicle, to and from school. Encourage your child to:

Arrive at the bus stop early. If children are late to the bus stop, they may attempt to run after the bus, and this can lead to injuries.

Stand back from the curb while waiting for the bus.

Quickly find a seat and sit down. Always sit facing forward. The high backed, padded seats are designed to protect students during sudden stops. Never stand or switch seats. Whenever the bus is moving, passengers must remain in their seats.

Never lean or reach out a window. Students can be severely injured or even killed while hanging out of the window.

Only cross in front of bus when you can see the driver's face and signal. Never walk behind the bus. Drivers cannot see pedestrians crossing behind the bus.

Never reach under the bus. Each year students are injured and killed when they reach under their school buses to pick up a paper or treasured object. Carry all books and papers in a zipped book bag or satchel so that papers and objects will not blow or fall under the bus.



## Walkers, bikers and everything in-between

If your child does not ride the bus to school, you can still provide rules for traveling:

If your child walks to school, make sure he or she is with friends. The group should walk on the main sidewalks and not take shortcuts.

Give your child a whistle to blow if he/she is in danger. It will attract attention and may ward off a crime.

If your child bikes to school, make sure he or she wears a helmet. Bikers should also wear bright, light-colored clothing and have reflectors on their bikes and clothing.

Make sure your child wears a seat belt if driving or being driven to school. Remember that most accidents occur within 10 miles of home.

Teach your child to never accept rides from people he or she does not know.

Although it may be hard for you, talk frankly with your children and teach them some common tricks of child molesters.

## Safety activities

Parents can use these simple practices to ensure that their children know how to travel safely.

**Role play.** Act out certain situations children may find themselves in, and ask them what they would do. For example, someone asks for directions and wants you to get into a car, or someone asks to take your picture for a TV ad and invites you into their house or apartment.

Always call the school if your child will be late or absent. Make sure the school knows how to contact you if your child does not show up.

Tell your child how to contact you in a hurry. Give him or her your work phone number. Teach her or him how to call collect and when and how to call 911.

Sources: *Learning Partners: A Guide to Educational Activities for Families*, U.S. Department of Education; *PSJA Schools in the News*, Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Schools.



## Four ACMS Outstanding Marching Band students honored at concert



*ACMS Outstanding Marching Band students were honored at the band/choir/orchestra concert Dec. 9.*

*Pictured at left are Valerie White, Lauren McGuigan, Marissa Taylor and D.J. Herren, seventh grade.*

**Kristen Martinez/  
PUBLIC RELATIONS**

# Schedule for spring Kansas Assessment testing

It is time to start preparations for spring 2003 Kansas Assessments. This spring, all students are required to take state assessments in reading, mathematics, science and social studies. Opportunities for off-cycle (writing) assessments as the local option for use of the CETE performance assessments and score reporting supports a district focus.

Local scoring must be bubbled on the answer sheets so CETE can provide the necessary reports. Performance assessments in math, reading, science and social studies will be ordered and locally scored. Performance assessments must be statistically valid, thus we are using CETE.

Also, Alternate and Modified assessments will be available to support the assessment of eligible students with learning difficulties and ELL students. ELL students must be individually tested and CDs have been requested for each student.

Grade level	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Feb. 3-7 Writing		X			X			X
Feb. 10-12	Writing make up tests							
Feb. 14	Writing tests DUE to Central Office							
Feb. 24-28* Science	X			X			X	
March 3-7 Reading		X			X			X
March 10-14 Math	X			X			X	
Social Studies			X		X			X
March 24-28	Make up tests							
April 9	All test (writing due Feb. 14) DUE to Central Office							

\* Science performance assessments may be administered at the principal's discretion from Feb. 3-28.

## Santa visits Head Start, PALS



*Kids from the Lincoln Early Childhood Center hug and talk to Santa as Caroline Bruce, Head Start director, looks on. Santa visited the Head Start and PALS students at their Hall Sing on Dec. 18.*

Kristen Martinez/ PUBLIC RELATIONS



## *USD 470 flower delivery policy*



In order to limit the number of classroom interruptions, USD 470 has adopted the following policy regarding the delivery of flowers and balloons to students while they are at school:

1. All floral and balloon deliveries should be made to the building offices.
2. Deliveries must be made between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
3. No deliveries will be accepted on the day before Valentine's Day or on Valentine's Day.

Students will be responsible for picking up their floral/balloon deliveries in the school office. Middle and high school students will receive a hall pass the last five minutes of the hour advising them that they have a delivery in the office.

Floral and balloon deliveries approved by the administration and performed in conjunction with activities or clubs within the schools are not part of the above stipulations.

## C-4 student reaches top reading goal; honored with all-school parade, assembly



C-4 Elementary School fourth grader William Duren earned 1,000 Accelerated Reader points in 1 1/2 years and was honored with an all-school parade and assembly on Dec. 9. Pictured above are (back row) Mr. and Mrs. Rob Duren, parents; Robert Duren, brother; William Duren (holding certificate) and Mark Gregg, C-4 fourth-grade teacher; (front row holding banner) Garrett Johns and Shane Borrer, fifth graders.

Courtesy photo

C-4 Elementary fourth grader William Duren reached the 1,000-point Accelerated Reader reading level and was honored with an all-school parade and assembly Dec. 9. Duren reached this top goal in 1 1/2 years. On average, students earn 50 AR points per year.

Duren has completed the entire "Nancy Drew" and "Hardy Boys" mystery series (more than 110 books) along with the entire library of William Allen White books. He is an avid reader and learner. C-4 congratulates Duren on his accomplishment.

## Nurse Notes

The USD 470 school nurses offer these general guidelines for keeping sick students out of class. If in doubt, parents should consult their family physician. Following are some common illnesses and when a student should return to school:

**Chicken pox:** When old blisters have formed scabs and there are no new ones, approximately five days.

**Conjunctivitis (pink eye):** When eyes have been treated with antibiotics for 24 hours.

**Elevated temperature:** When temperature is normal for 24 hours without Tylenol.

According to school policy, an oral temperature of 99.6 degrees is considered a fever.

**Head lice:** When treatment has started and every nit and louse have been removed.

**Impetigo:** When child has been under treatment for 24 hours and has no temperature.

**Ringworm:** As soon as treatment with fungicidal has started.

**Scabies:** Twenty-four hours after the start of treatment.

**Strep throat or scarlet fever:** Twenty-four hours after beginning antibiotic.

**Vomiting or diarrhea:** When symptoms have ceased for 24 hours.



## Tetanus-diphtheria vaccinations to be offered at high school

The tetanus-diphtheria (Td) vaccination supply has now been replenished. Protective immunity is not present longer than 10 years after the last vaccination, so if it has been more than 10 years since your student's last Td vaccine, he or she should participate in the immunization clinic being offered at ACHS in March.

Individuals also may receive the vaccine at the Health Department during immunization clinics on Monday afternoons or Wednesdays.

### What is diphtheria?

Diphtheria is an infectious disease spread from person to person by respiratory droplets from the

throat through coughing and sneezing.

Unless immunized, children and adults may repeatedly be infected with the disease, according to the World Health Organization.

A letter will be sent out to those who are behind on their shot or will need one for the 2003-2004 school year.

If you have questions, or if your student has received the vaccination in the last 10 years, please call nurse Bonnie Condit at the high school at 441-2010.



### Questions?

#### Call your child's school nurse:

- ♦ Cindy Freeland, 441-2060: Jefferson, Roosevelt, IXL, Adams, Lincoln
- ♦ Jacque Arnett, 441-2030: ACMS, C-4, Alternative MS
- ♦ Bonnie Condit, 441-2010: ACHS, Frances Willard, ACES, Community Day School

# 'Baby, Think It Over'

Learning Lighthouse 'Girls' Night Out' group learns babysitting skills

Aaron Wise, 21st Century Director

**T**he Learning Lighthouse "Girls' Night Out" group is learning how to become competent babysitters. Families Actively Communicating Together is a community partner with the afterschool program and is providing this training.

Pam Lough, RN and director of FACT, is leading the class in babysitting skills. Learning Lighthouse activity leader Karen Moser assists her.

Participants have already gained some basic interviewing skills for future jobs as babysitters. They have recently been introduced to the "Baby-Think-It-Over" baby simulators provided by FACT.

The participants will have the opportunity to take the baby simulators home for several days. They must keep the babies with them as they would a real child. The simulators require activities from feeding and changing to holding, sleeping, etc. The girls don't actually have to warm a bottle and feed the simulator, but they have a specific function to perform with a key so the simula-

tor's computer knows attention is being given to the baby.

As the girls were introduced to the simulators, many questions arose: "What do we do with the simulator when we go to church?" "What if there isn't room in the car for the car seat?" "What if our parents are going to Wal-Mart and we have to go?" The answer to all was "What would you do if it was a real baby?"

The simulators aren't designed to be a fun game of dolls for these girls. Many of them will "think it over" as to whether they actually are ready to take on the challenges of being a babysitter.



*Learning Lighthouse afterschool program "Girls Night Out" group participants use the "Baby-Think-It-Over" simulator provided by Families Actively Communicating Together to learn valuable babysitting skills. Pam Lough, RN and FACT director, is instructing the group. The simulator doll is in the car seat.*

Courtesy photo

Future instruction will include feeding, diapering, age appropriate games, home safety, writing a simple résumé and other necessary skills to be a competent babysitter.

Those participants who satisfactorily complete the course and attend all sessions will graduate with a certificate of completion and a pack of items to help them launch into successful babysitting experiences.

## Deadline to order yearbook is Feb. 7

The deadline to order the 2003 Arkansas City High School Mirror yearbook is Feb. 7.

Yearbooks may be purchased from Rhonda Trenary, financial secretary, at the ACHS office. The full payment, \$30, is due when ordering. No partial deposits will be accepted, and no extra copies of the book will be ordered.

## Roosevelt offers fun for families on Feb. 11

It's time for Roosevelt Elementary's annual Family Fun Night. All Roosevelt students and their extended families are invited to attend.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 11. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

The purpose of Family Fun Night is to provide families with ideas for fun things to do together that benefit students academically. Before arriving, parents need to look over the list of presentations

provided prior to the event to decide which ones will be most beneficial to the student(s) in their family.

More than 15 different fun activities teaching valuable language, math, reading, writing and communication skills will be demonstrated that night.

Light refreshments will be served, and prizes will be awarded. More information will be sent to Roosevelt parents. Call 441-2070 for more information.

# Counselor's corner

## Scholarships with *quickly* approaching deadlines

### **CollegeSteps Scholarship Program**

100 \$1,000 scholarships will be given away through eight random drawings. Students simply need to sign up online at [www.wellsfargo.com/collegesteps](http://www.wellsfargo.com/collegesteps).

### **American Legion Scholarships**

Applications for these scholarships are available in the counselor's office. Applications must be received in the Topeka office by Feb. 15, unless otherwise indicated.

**Music Scholarship** ~ One \$1,000 award available to any senior who plans to major or minor in music.

**John and Geraldine Hobble Licensed Practical Nurse Scholarship** ~ One \$300 grant to a Kansas senior who will enter licensed practical nursing.

**Paul E. Flaherty Athletic Scholarship** ~ One \$250 award for any male/female who has participated in high school athletics (July 15 deadline).

**Dr. Irvin L. "Click" Cowger Memorial Baseball Scholarship** ~ One \$500 scholarship awarded to a Kansas male who has participated in American Legion baseball (July 15 deadline).

The following scholarship funds are for needy and worthy seniors who are children of American Legion/Auxiliary members:

**Hugh A. Smith** ~ One \$500 award.

**Rosendale Post 346** ~ Two \$1,500 awards.

**Albert M. Lappin** ~ One \$1,000 award.

**Charles W. and Annette Hill** ~ One \$1,000 award.

**Ted and Nora Anderson** ~ Four \$500 awards.

### **American Legion Oratorical Contest**

The purpose of the American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students.

This contest is open to all ninth-12th-grade students. Amounts of the national contest are as follows: first

place: \$18,000; second place: \$16,000; third place: \$14,000. Each state winner who participates in the first round of the National Contest will receive a \$1,500 scholarship, and each first-round winner will receive an additional \$1,500 award.

### **Victor Murdock Scholarship**

Students attending Wichita State University who will major in print journalism may apply for this four-year renewable scholarship (\$1,250 per year). Applications must be received by Feb. 14.

### **Kansas Association of Migrant Directors Gerry Vandaveer Scholarship**

A \$250/semester renewable scholarship to be awarded to a qualified migrant student based on financial need. The deadline is March 15.

### **Kansas Vocational/Technical Education Scholarship Program**

A \$500 scholarship awarded to students who enroll full-time in a designated one- or two-year vocational program after they graduate. Students must submit \$10 and take a test that will be administered on Saturday, March 1. The postmark deadline for the application is Feb. 3. (The closest test location is Wichita.)

### **KSU Delta Chi Education Foundation Scholarships**

Two \$250 scholarships are available to incoming Kansas State University freshmen for the fall 2003 semester. Must have 3.0 grade-point average and demonstrate leadership, scholarship, involvement and service. Deadline for applications is March 1.

### **KACRAO Quality Leadership Scholarships**

Two \$500 scholarships to seniors who have evidence of leadership experience. A minimum 3.25 GPA and ACT score of 22 are required. Students must be planning to attend a KACRAO institution (list available in counseling office but includes most public colleges

in Kansas). Application must be postmarked by Feb. 15.

### **Kansas Association of Directors of Plant Facilities Scholarship**

One \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior who is the son/daughter of a custodial worker and plans to continue his/her education at the college level. Application must be postmarked by Feb. 7.

### **Papa John's Wichita/Dillon's Stores 2003 Scholarship Program**

A wide variety of criteria will be considered for this scholarship so any senior is encouraged to apply. Applications must be completed and returned to counselor Angela Harding by Feb. 3.

### **Great Plains Association for College Admission Counseling Scholarship**

A \$1,000 scholarship will awarded to a graduating Kansas senior. Students must submit an essay and application, which must be postmarked by March 1.

## Time running out for seniors to take ACT

Time is running out to take the ACT. Seniors who have not taken the test should do so ASAP. Following is a list of the two remaining testing dates.

Note: Although a student may have taken the ACT the school administered, that score is not acceptable for scholarships and for admission to most schools.

Visit ACT's Web site at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) for more information.

<u>Test date</u>	<u>Postmark deadline</u>
April 12, 2003	March 7, 2003
June 14, 2003	May 9, 2003

Contact counselor Angela Harding at 441-2010 regarding information on this page.

# February calendar of events

- |    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1  | HS Forensics Tournament<br>FFA Ag Ed Symposium, Hays                                     | 20 | No classes K-8<br>Elem./MS P/T conferences<br>HS evening enrollment conf.<br>HS regional KSPA, Wichita   |
| 5  | City spelling bee, ACMS,<br>grades 3-8<br>FFA District Dairy Foods and<br>Poultry, Inman | 21 | No classes K-12<br>Elem. P/T conferences<br>HS morning enrollment conf.<br>FFA Appreciation Breakfast<br>HS Vocal Music Dessert<br>Concert, auditorium, 7 p.m. |
| 6  | Regional Scholars' Bowl  | 22 | HS Vocal Music Dessert<br>Concert, auditorium, 7 p.m.<br>State Piano Festival<br>FFA Equifest, Wichita<br>FFA District Meats Judging                           |
| 7  | Winter Homecoming  | 24 | Tenth-grade science assess-<br>ment tests (through 27th)<br>HS spring sports preseason<br>mtg., HS auditorium, 7 p.m.<br>BOE mtg., Adams, 7 p.m.               |
| 8  | Regional Piano Festival<br>ACT Test<br>MS Math Contest<br>Homecoming Dance               | 27 | KMEA, Wichita  |
| 10 | BOE mtg., HS, 7 p.m.   | 28 | HS State Wrestling<br>KMEA, Wichita  |
| 12 | HS SAGE Blood Drive  |    |  |
| 14 | End of fourth six-weeks<br>Valentine's Day   |    |  |
| 15 | State Scholars' Bowl<br>FFA AC/Winfield Community<br>Auction, Winfield                   |    |  |
| 16 | National FFA Week (through<br>the 22nd)  |    |  |
| 17 | MS evening P/T conferences   |    |  |
| 19 | FFA Kiowa Livestock Judging  |    |  |

## Winter 2003 Homecoming

Theme: Bedrock  
Dress-up days for week of Feb. 3-7:  
Monday: Wear One Color  
Tuesday: Hat Day  
Wednesday: Come As You Are  
Thursday: Cowboy Day  
Friday: Purple and Gold  
Coronation is Friday,  
Feb. 7, during halftime  
of the boys' basketball  
game against  
McPherson. The dance  
is Saturday, Feb. 8, from 9 p.m. to  
midnight at ACHS. Tickets are \$5  
and must be purchased in advance.



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HAPPY VALENTINES DAY