

# The Announcer



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

## We are 'on the bubble'



Dear  
Arkansas City  
Patrons:

We are on  
the bubble!  
We are mak-  
ing progress!  
We are  
constantly  
analyzing  
information

based on our current, ongoing student assessment data collected by principals and teachers. We are "on the bubble" between having a great deal to celebrate during the August 2003 Annual Opening Convocation of the Arkansas City School District or having the possibility that several of our schools could be placed on the state's "improvement list" by 2004-2005. We are on the bubble.

This is the time for the entire Ark City community to support and recognize that we can do what's necessary for the continuous improvement of student achievement for all students in USD 470. This is the

time for a solid, positive-thinking, positive-doing board of education, leadership team, teaching staff, support staff, students, parents, and community members and leaders to work together toward the vision of USD 470. We can do this; I know we can!

Thank you again for your support of the Arkansas City schools and its students and staff members. Thank you again for the time and assistance the community provides our schools. Thank you again for stepping forward and doing what is right for our school district and the students and community it serves. Thank you again for not only *understanding*, but also *embracing* the vision of every student learning to higher and higher standards and every student graduating from high school ready to take the next step.

Good to great is possible in the Arkansas City School District. We are making progress!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Perry L. Perkins  
Superintendent of Schools

## 'Round Up For Kids;' make a difference

Are you looking for an easy and inexpensive way to help Arkansas City kids? You can make a difference each month by rounding up your city utility bill payment to the next whole dollar amount. Round Up For Kids is a special fund supporting USD 470 afterschool pro-

grams.

When you pay your utility bill, simply round up to the next dollar amount and the difference will be put in the 470 fund. The difference may only be a few cents, but the difference you can make in the lives of children could be much larger.

## Information corner

### Board of education

Daren Reese, president  
Gary Wilson, vice president  
Coleen Estep  
Dr. Nick Rogers  
Sue Saia  
Mindy Tebow  
Joelyn Squires

### Administration

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

*"He who neglects learning  
in his youth loses the past  
and is dead for the future."*

*~ Euripides*

## 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.

**WWW.ARKCITY.COM**

## Top boxtop collectors shave principal's beard



*Alex Breckenridge, Roosevelt Elementary kindergartner, shaves Principal Tom Bauer's beard as Drew Palmer, fifth grader, looks on. The boys were two of the top three collectors in the General Mills Boxtops for Education Competition. Their reward was to shave Bauer's beard.*

**Courtesy photo**

Shaving may not seem like a reward to many adults, but to students at Roosevelt Elementary it is. Students competed to shave off their principal's beard. The top three boxtop collectors in the General Mills Boxtops for Education competition earned the opportunity to shave Principal Tom Bauer's beard on Jan. 31. The top three collectors were Robert Hays, third grade, who brought in 552, Drew Palmer, fifth grade, with 433,

and kindergartner Alex Breckenridge, with 300. Robert was sick the day the other two boys shaved Bauer's beard, so he will get to go to lunch with Bauer as a reward.

Although the contest is finished, Roosevelt, along with other Arkansas City schools, will still be collecting boxtops.

The boxtops are used to purchase needed items and equipment for the schools.

## Students' award-winning recipes served

More than 100 students in Arkansas City schools competed in the Chartwells sandwich recipe contest. The winners' recipes were prepared by Chartwells staff and served at lunch. One winner was

selected at the elementary-, middle- and high-school levels.

Madcyn Hill was the elementary school winner; Brett Callaway won at the middle school level; and Brett's sister, Katharine Callaway was the high school winner.

Each student received a boombox as a prize.



*From left: Brett Callaway, Madcyn Hill, Katharine Callaway  
Courtesy photos*

## Lincoln PALS to host book fair, family night

Lincoln PALS will host a Scholastic Book Fair March 4-7. The times are as follows:

7:30-8:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m. to noon

2:30-3:30 p.m.

The Family Night/Book Fair will be March 6, from 5-5:45 p.m., with a regular PTO meeting following at 6. Refreshments, including free hot dogs, popcorn and drinks, will be served.



## MUSIC NEWS

- ACHS band students Evan Gackstatter, Alicia VanGilder, Scott Squires and Kristine Thompson participated in the Wichita State University Band Festival, Jan. 31 and Feb 1., at WSU.

They were involved in two days of clinics and rehearsals which concluded with a final concert in Miller Concert Hall, on the WSU campus.

- KC Wright was selected for KMEA Statewide Honor Choir, which took place in Wichita Feb. 27 through March 1.



### ACMS collecting books

The middle school is again collecting new and used books. These books have been distributed to a variety of places and are greatly needed and enjoyed by those who receive them. Anyone who wishes to donate books may drop them off at the middle school office.

# Young poets to be published

Fourteen fourth graders at C-4 Elementary recently received letters informing them that their poems have been chosen for publication in the book "Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans," 13th edition.

Tanner Armfield, Rachel Bazil, Chance Blatchford, Caitlin Day, Jessenia Flores, Emily Hamilton, Brandon Klick, Jessica O'Donnell, Kristy Pool, Abbey Ramirez, Tommy Saia, Sean Stewart, Tanner Trillo and Mary Watters will have poetry published.

"They may not understand yet, in fact I'm pretty sure they don't, what a great accomplishment this is to have a poem that they wrote, by themselves, actually get published in a real-life, honest-to-God book," teacher Mark Gregg said, "a book that, later in life, they can get from the shelf and say to people, 'Look at this; when I was in the fourth grade, I had a poem that I wrote published in this book.' For me, personally, that's the coolest thing about the whole project."

Last year while teaching fifth grade at Roosevelt Elementary, Gregg had 13 students get their poetry published. "My success rate lately has been outstanding," he said. "Hope it continues."

Catarena Darnell, fourth grader at Jefferson Elementary, has written a poem, "Moon Light Stars," that has been selected as a semifinalist in the International Open Poetry Contest, which automatically enters her in the final competition of the contest. Her poem will be published in a book, "Patterns of Life," which is a collection of poetry.

Catarena's teacher, Peggy Santiago, said she is "a very special young lady who has a beautiful voice and loves to sing, as well as write."

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# Adams students earn academic awards

Adams Elementary Principal Rex Herndon recently presented awards to students and staff. Good citizenship awards were presented to 36 students, and 113 students earned reading awards. Fifty-nine students made the honor roll.

Student perfect attendance awards were presented to Chayson Barnes, Raquel Cedano, Curtis Cook, Zachary Haegle, Heather Hammel, Jonathan Harper, Joshua Harper, Karli Hoag, Kole Hoag, Katelyn Klonowski,



*Students from Darin Mann's fifth grade class display their honor roll awards as Principal Rex Herndon looks on.*

Daric Mann, William Merhoff, Haley Mora, Austin Pond, Ranelle Rice, Shanelle Rice, Katy Richerson, Yobana Rodriguez, JonGabriel Savala, Sarah Scruggs, Shayla Trenary, Jacob Whitford and Brandon Young.

Perfect attendance awards also were presented to staff members Alana Holt, Joy Hunter, Sue Krueger, Darin Mann, Darlene Pickle, Laura Portillo, Traci Scott, Paul Shimon and Elena Vargas.

Joyce Baker and Shirley Venegas earned staff outstanding service awards.

# Students compete in scholarship contest

Feb. 6 and 7, 40 seventh and eighth grade students nominated by their teachers participated in the State of Kansas Scholarship Contest. They are competing against approximately 9,500 students from across Kansas. They were tested in social studies, English, spelling, math, science and Algebra I. They are vying for awards at the school, class and state levels. Results will be announced in May.

The following participated: Will Anderson, Paige Bower, Chelsea Befort, Morgan Brown, Jennifer Butler, Ben Byers, Taylor Carrithers, Chelsea DeHoux, Robert Duren, Brianne Ford, Rachel Fountaine, Megan Galligher, Kirk Godfrey, Spencer Hartman, Adam Hoag, Leslie Holloway, Alyssa Hunt, Robert Hutson, Jessica Johnson, Chris Keeler, Zeb Klick, Darci Mann, Daniel Maslen, Lauren McGuigan, Alison Nittler, Michael Osterthun, JinYong Park, Melissa Patterson, Elizabeth Potter, Morgan Reese, Elizabeth Ripperda, Misty Schmidt, Noah Smithson, Alex Stewart, Marissa Taylor, Ashlee Tomsche, Adam Upmann, Joe Wallace, Rebecca Wise and Amanda Young

Note: Kaitlyn Jarvis was ill and unable to participate.

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# MS Outstanding Students selected

The following students have been selected as the Arkansas City Middle School Outstanding Students for the third six weeks:

Sixth: Matthew Branine, Jasmin Martinez, Megan Myers and Corey Reece

Seventh: Katelyn Kuecker and JinYong Park

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## Td clinic to be offered this month

The tetanus-diphtheria vaccination supply has now been replenished. ACHS is planning an immunization clinic for Monday, March 31, at 8:15 a.m. in the HS cafeteria.

If a high school student needs the Td booster for this semester or for the 2003-2004 school year, parents will receive a letter in the mail with a form that needs to be completed and returned to the school nurse by March 14. This will ensure that the Health Department will have enough vaccine.

ACHS will offer the vaccine for \$14, compared to \$14.75 at the Health Department. If a parent has more than one student at the high school, each form needs to be accompanied by the correct payment. Make checks payable to Cowley County Health Department. The insurance information on the consent form is for statistical purposes only. The Health Department will NOT file insurance papers on behalf of students.

Documented proof of the immunization must be submitted to the school nurse or the student will be excluded from school in accordance with state law. For more information, call nurse Bonnie Condit at the high school, 441-2010.

### Questions?

#### Call your child's 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

## Kids compete in city spelling bee



Winners of the Arkansas City spelling bee are (from left to right) Amanda Westenfeld, 2nd place; Elizabeth Cook, 1st place; Brianne Ford, 3rd place; and John Seitz, 4th place.

**Courtesy photo**

Two USD 470 students earned top honors in the Arkansas City spelling bee at ACMS on Feb. 5. The top four spellers went on to compete in the Cowley County spelling bee Feb. 19. (Read results in the next newsletter.)

First place went to Elizabeth Cook, seventh grader at Ark City Christian Academy; second place to Amanda Westenfeld, seventh grader at ACMS; third place to Brianne Ford, seventh grader at ACMS; and fourth place to John Seitz, fourth grader at Sacred Heart.

Fifteen of the 18 contestants who made it to the final round of competition are 470 students. Contestants went 20 rounds, and the winning word was subtle.



The following students made it to the final round of competition: Cook; Westenfeld; Ford; Seitz; Michael Anthony, sixth grade, ACMS; Tyler Reichle, eighth grade, ACMS; Ellen Walker, third grade, Sacred Heart; Hali McCord, eighth grade, ACMS; John Rohr, third grade, Roosevelt; Isaac Clark, fourth grade, Frances Willard; Harlee Mussleman, fifth grade, Frances Willard; Chad Gelino, eighth grade, ACMS; Mitchell Myers, third grade, Jefferson; Courtney Jordan, sixth grade, ACMS; Emma Schrag, fourth grade, Roosevelt; Drew Bennett, fifth grade, Roosevelt; Tear Morris, sixth grade, ACMS; and Tanner Gramm, fifth grade, Jefferson.

## Scrub a bug: Handwashing kills germs

Do you want to be sick? Then, continue not washing your hands! Bacteria and viruses are everywhere, and our hands are the carriers of many viruses.

The American Society of Microbiology surveyed 6,333 people to find out if they washed their hands after using the restroom. The Society found that 32 to 40 percent of people did not wash their hands.

Handwashing breaks the germ transmission cycle. For it to be effective, you need to 1) wet hands

with water, preferably warm; 2) lather hands with soap for at least 15 seconds; Scrub vigorously between fingers; 3) rinse hands, pointing the fingers down; 4) obtain paper towel without using hand on the handle and dry thoroughly; 5) turn off the water with the paper towel; 6) throw towel away.

By doing something as simple as frequently and effectively washing your hands you can greatly reduce the risk of becoming infected. So, scrub a bug and be a germ stopper!

## Sixteen attend KSU String Fling

ACMS orchestra students attended Kansas State University's 30th Annual String Fling in Manhattan Jan. 18 and 19. The event, sponsored by the string department of the KSU Music School, allows string students from grades five through nine an opportunity to play in a large group ensemble using challenging and fun music. More than 700 students from across Kansas typically participate.

The students spent Saturday in rehearsals and performed a final concert Sunday.

According to Shannon Gackstatter, orchestra director, the weekend was a success for the students. "Much of the success is due to the wonderful sponsors who give of their time and effort to make this weekend possible," she said. The sponsors were Rebecca Crow, Lorie Godfrey, Sheri Ramirez, Sharon Shelton, Anthony and Cheryl Smith and Marcia Trillo.

The following students attended: sixth graders Cristina Castillo, Sarah Trillo and Katie Godfrey; seventh graders Shanna Brown, Dustin Lynn, Joseph Jett, Hope Ramirez and Kip Smith; and eighth graders Kirk Godfrey, Josh Hilton, Rodney Lunsford, Tim Miller, William Stigers, Derek Vaden, Ashley Leighty and Jackson McVey.

## Students fare well in math contest

More than 300 students from 24 schools across the region converged on Arkansas City Middle School for the ninth annual Arkansas City Invitational Math Contest Feb. 8.

Students in grades four through eight competed in written tests in three areas: geometry, number sense (mental math) and problem solving. Students could place in any or all of the subtest areas, and the top 10 in each grade, in each category were honored at an awards presentation. More than 800 people filled the auditorium for the presentation.

More than 100 volunteers assisted in administering the contest. Volunteers gave tests, graded tests, recorded data, monitored, sponsored and registered students, and more.



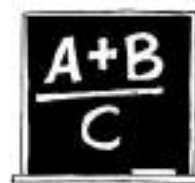
Out of the 93 USD 470 students who competed in the contest, 75 of them placed in the top 10 in at least one category. Students from ACMS and Adams, C-4, Frances Willard, IXL, Jefferson and Roosevelt Elementary Schools competed.

Students who placed in the top three in one or more category:

Will Anderson, 8th grade, ACMS, 1st in geometry  
Daniel Maslen, 8th grade,

ACMS, 1st in number sense and problem solving and 2nd in geometry

Paige Bower, 7th grade, ACMS, 1st in problem solving and 3rd in geometry



Morgan Reese, 7th grade, ACMS, 1st in geometry and 3rd in number sense and problem solving

Noah Befort, 6th grade, ACMS, 3rd in number sense

Sierra Lungren, 6th grade, ACMS, 2nd in geometry

Emily Walker, 6th grade, ACMS, 3rd in geometry

Courtney Coldwell, 4th grade, Adams, 3rd in problem solving

Ashley Carter, 5th grade, Jefferson, 2nd in problem solving

Taylor Hatfield, 5th grade, Jefferson, 3rd in problem solving

Chelsea Galligher, 4th grade, Jefferson, 2nd in number sense

Zachary McDowell, 4th grade, Jefferson, 3rd in problem solving

Maria Vargas, 4th grade, Jefferson, 1st in number sense

Mikayla Beauchamp, 5th grade, Roosevelt, 2nd in geometry

Devin Metzinger, 5th grade, Roosevelt, 1st in number sense, geometry and problem solving

Brent Burroughs, 4th grade, Roosevelt, 2nd in number sense

**B**e your child's first, best teacher! Parents As Teachers is accepting new families. PAT is a free program for any expectant parents or those who have children from newborn to pre-K, regardless of gender or income. Call 441-2068 to enroll.

## Counselor's corner

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.

Visit [act.org](http://act.org) for more information.

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

Many scholarship deadlines are quickly approaching. Contact counselor Angela Harding at 441-2010 for information and applications.

# March calendar of events

- |       |  |       |  |
|-------|--|-------|--|
| 1     | HS state wrestling<br>KMEA in Wichita  | 12-15 | HS state basketball, Topeka                                  |
| 3     | Begin HS spring sports practice<br>MS spring sports preseason<br>meeting, auditorium, 7 p.m. | 13    | MS band/orchestra concert,<br>MS auditorium, 7 p.m.          |
| 3-7   | 5th/8th/11th reading assess-<br>ment tests   | 17    | St. Patrick's Day  |
| 4-7   | Lincoln PALS Book Fair   | 17-21 | Spring break   |
| 4     | HS Competition Day at<br>Independence Comm. College  | 20    | Spring begins  |
| 7     | End of third 9 weeks   | 24    | Classes resume<br>BOE mtg., C-4 Elem., 7 p.m.                |
| 10    | BOE meeting, ACHS, 7 p.m.  | 24-28 | Make up assessment tests                                     |
| 10-14 | 4th/7th/10th math assess-<br>ment tests  | 25    | HS honor orchestra at<br>Southwestern College                |
|       | 6th/8th/11th social studies<br>assessment tests  | 27-29 | HS spring play, 7 p.m., aud.                                 |
| 11    | HS choir/orchestra concert,<br>HS auditorium, 7 p.m.   | 29    | Roosevelt Bingo and Brats<br>Night, Ag Building, 5:30-8 p.m. |

**Calendar change:**  
The eighth-grade  
lock-in originally  
scheduled for  
March 14 has been  
moved to May 2.



## The Announcer

USD 470 Central Office  
119 West Washington Avenue  
Arkansas City, KS 67005  
620-441-2000 phone  
620-441-2009 fax

**Dr. Perry L. Perkins**  
*Superintendent*  
**Kristen Martinez, editor**  
*Director of Public Relations*

This newsletter is published and distributed to the Arkansas City community. Suggestions can be sent to the editor or e-mailed to [kmartinez@arkcity.com](mailto:kmartinez@arkcity.com).

### January board/teacher panel Superior Service Award recipients

- ♦ Certified staff: Kathy Marshall, 5th grade teacher at IXL Elementary
- ♦ Classified staff: Wanda Pingry, bus driver
- ♦ Volunteer: J.C. Louderback, community member



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Public Relations  
119 West Washington Avenue  
Arkansas City, KS 67005-1028**

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