

**USD 251
NORTH LYON COUNTY
PATRON NEWSLETTER
March 2011**

USD 251 NORTH LYON COUNTY Online Patron Survey

Last month I explained that the USD 251 Board of Education was in the process of working with Patron Insight and a committee, who represented a cross section of the district, to develop a phone survey to solicit the views of the patrons of the district.

The need to solicit these views arose from the strategic planning process that the Board of Education began last fall. The survey questions have been developed to find out general areas of interest on facilities, activities, and quality of instruction; and the survey is now underway. So if your phone rings and you are asked to participate please don't hang up. Instead, please take the 10-15 minutes it will take to help us make good decisions for the future of your children and your school district.

You don't have to wait for the phone to ring. We need your help planning our future. Please take the time to go online at our website www.usd251.org and take the online survey. Click on the "Online Patron Survey" button on the right side of the page to participate. The survey will be available until March 25th at 5:00 PM.

Mike Nulton

Superintendent of Schools

USD 251, North Lyon County



Reading School Newsletter

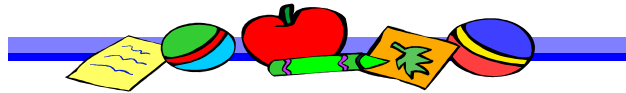
March 2011

Principal's Pen

By Peggy Fort

Out Teach, Out Learn, Out Class
Island of Learning

The character trait for March is **Perseverance** –
Sticking to a purpose or an aim; never giving up what one has set out to do; to try, try, again;
persist. The color of the month is green.



Reading School Kindergarten Round Up

**Any child who is 5 years old
on or before
August 31, 2011
is invited to attend
Kindergarten Round Up
at Reading School
Monday, April 11, 2011
7:00 p.m.**

Parents, please call Reading School 620-699-3827 to register your child
and to receive more information.

If you know of any child 5 years old, please call 620-699-3827.

READING PTO MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6
7:00 p.m.
Reading School Commons Area

BUILDING READING IN USD #251

TITLE I

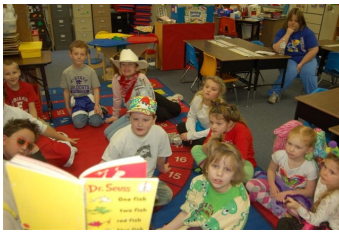
Parents Make a Difference
Peggy Fort—Ruthann Resch

**BUILDING READING SKILL
WITH WRITING**

Without writing, there would be no reading. So it makes sense to build reading skills to encourage writing. Keep interesting writing supplies around, including pens, markers, crayons, notebooks, stationery, and art paper.

Children, from toddlers to teens, will benefit from writing activities such as these:

1. **Drawing.** Young children can scribble words. Older children can write stories.
2. **Communicating.** Have your child write letters to friends, relatives, or authors.
3. **Keeping a journal.** Your child can record personal experiences, ideas, and poems.
4. **Making lists.** Note what should get done for the day.
5. **Filling in the blanks.** Start sentences and let your child finish them.
6. **Taking notes.** Help your child pick out the most important points while reading. Try making an outline.
7. **Preparing.** Write down steps toward goals. Show older students how to make a resume.



WACKY WEDNESDAY



What a wacky Wednesday! To celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday, we spent the day listening to his stories and doing activities that related to them. We dressed in crazy Dr. Seuss type apparel, and traveled from room to room in multiage groups.

Ms. Harrison read the story One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish. Then we played number bingo with gold fish crackers which we got to eat! Mrs. Philips used her Promethean board to tell the story Horton Hatches an Egg. She had several neat activities on her board including taking the front half of one creature and matching it up with the back half of another. Then you got to name it! Mrs. Wiley had found Oh the Places You'll Go on U-tube so she used her Promethean board too. After listening to the story, we colored hot air balloons showing what we wanted to be, a place we wanted to go, or a person we wanted to meet.

If I Ran the Zoo was the story Ms. Harris chose. We drew pictures of the new animal we would have in our zoo and wrote a short paragraph about it. Green eggs and ham were on

the menu in Mrs. Beatty's room. After reading that story we cooked our greens eggs and ham in plastic ziplock bags in boiling water. They were yummy! Mrs. Myer incorporated science and the study of matter (solids and liquids) while reading the story Bartholomew and the Oobleck. We made our own oobleck and it felt neat!

In the afternoon, after PE and music, we watched Cat in the Hat or Horton Hears a Who. It was a wacky day and everyone had a great time!



A PIE IN THE FACE!!

During the week of the book fair, the students of Reading School participated in the

One for Books coin collection contest. We collected



pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars. We collected a total of \$151 (remember, we only had 1 1/2 days of school that week because of snow) which we sent to Scholastic. Scholastic then matched our amount and donated it to a charity of our choice. We chose Toys for Tots as our favorite charity. As a reward for collecting the money, the class that raised the most money got to throw a pie in Mrs. Fort's face!! Our winning class this year was the fourth grade! They chose Eva Berry and Amber Landis to do the honors! Can you imagine how nervous they were throwing a pie into the face of their principal?????

KINDERGARTEN NEWS: My name is Ms. Speer and I am Ms. Harrison's intern this semester. I am from Overland Park, Kansas but I have lived in Emporia for the last four years. When I am not doing homework, I enjoy being outside playing softball and basketball. I also enjoy watching the Kansas City Chiefs, Kansas City Royals and the Kansas Jayhawks play. I will graduate from Emporia State University in December. I am enjoying my time at Reading Elementary school this semester; I love the small town school environment and all the friendly staff here. In the next few weeks I will start to slowly teach more and I am very excited. I am looking forward to the rest of the school year with the kindergarteners at Reading. I asked the Kindergarteners what they like best about Kindergarten, here is what they said:

Taylor enjoys learning her letters.

Brett likes coloring and playing.

Allison enjoys learning how to read so she can teach her brother.

Tegan likes to color.

Sierra enjoys playing Candy Land.
Logan enjoys going to recess.
Tristan enjoys playing at centers especially writing on the Promethean board.
Molly likes having recess because she gets to play with her friends.
Greta likes reading to Ms. Harrison.
Reagan likes going to reading group, centers, and eating lunch at school.
Davis enjoys playing with cars in block center.
Hannah loves playing on the Promethean Board.

THIRD GRADE NEWS FROM MS. HARRIS: Our theme for this last month was, “We’re Working Our Hearts Out,” as we have been working so hard preparing for State Tests. We have been using a computer program called Study Island and doing formative tests in math and reading. Math tests will be before Spring Break, and reading will be after we return. We are also working to learn the multiplications facts. They need to work on these constantly because they are a basis for almost everything else in math.

Since it was in February, we celebrated the 100 days of school with writing on hearts what we love about school. In order to celebrate Kansas Day, we read a book about Kansas and read the book, Sarah, Plain and Tall. Then we watched the movie and compared it with the book.

On Saturday, February 26th, third graders went to the Shrine Circus. I went too and had a great time!

As this is my last newsletter this school year, I would like to thank you, parents, for all of your help with parties and the everyday encouragement you have given your child. It has been a great year.

LIBRARY NTOES FROM MRS. HOUCK: "Yes, Mom I have my AR Points, can I go outside and play with my friends?" Ever wonder if your child ever reads at school? Wondering if he or she ever took a test on that one book that they spent all weekend reading? Now parents can receive information on their child’s AR progress. Our new program, called Renaissance Home Connect, improves the school-to-home connection by allowing parents to log in to a Web site and view the student’s progress toward their AR goal. Access to online results promotes discussion between parents and students, which motivates students and can make reading practice more effective. In addition, parents can specify up to five E-mail addresses to receive automatic updates on their favorite student's reading progress. Please contact Lori Jo Houck, Reading School Library Specialist to activate your account. Once activated, the account will automatically send you a confirmation password. houckl@usd251.org is the best way to set up this account information or if you have questions about the program.





Americus ~ NLC Newsletter

March
2011

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 17 NLC/Americus Carnival 6-8pm
- 21-25 SPRING BREAK NO SCHOOL

April

- 5. Americus/NLC Site Based Council Meeting 6pm/PTO 7pm
- 7 NLC Track at Madison 11:00am
- 11. School Board Meeting 8:00pm
- 13. Track meet @ ESU 9:00 am
- 15. Track meet @ Madison 1:00
- 18. Kindergarten Roundup 7:00 pm
- 19. Track meet @ NHHS 1:00
- 21. Track meet @ Burlingame 11:00
- 22. NO SCHOOL
- 25. NLC Spring Concert



MISSION STATEMENT—The purpose of Americus NLC School is to provide a safe environment where all will learn to their fullest potential in order to function in an international community.

PRINCIPAL DODY'S CORNER



State Assessments have arrived! Students in grades 6,7,and 8 started taking the Kansas State Reading Assessment on March 8th. Grades 3,4, and 5 will start on March 14th. Students in grades 3,4,5,6,7,and 8 will take the Kansas State Math Assessment April 4-12th. Students in grades 4 and 7 will take the Kansas State Science Assessment towards the end of April. The teachers have been diligently working on preparing our students for these important tests. To ensure your student will perform at their best, please make sure they are getting plenty of sleep at night and that they eat a good breakfast in the morning. Congratulations to the NLC Quiz Bowl team. The 7th grade finished 2nd at the league tournament and the 8th grade finished third at the NLC meet. Congratulations to Neal Huffman and Andrea Anderson for being selected as the Americus Elementary and NLC Jr. High students of the month. Keep up the good work!!

Third Grade News

We are so happy to have PDS intern Kebra Claiborne in our classroom this semester. Miss Claiborne has been teaching us about the Earth's surface. We have learned how scientists classify rocks, about earthquakes, and volcanoes and how awesome our earth is in Science. In Math third grade has been learning multiplication, division, two digit multiplication, telling time, place value... As you can see we are prepared for the Kansas State Assessment.

Counselor Comments

It is amazing that three nine weeks have been completed. At the end of February, the elementary students had an assembly to recognize those students who've shown FAIRNESS to others. During the assembly, several students received Fairness Character Awards and Academic Awards for their efforts. The Kindergarten class received the most Character Coupons, so they went out for an extra recess. Pictures of the assembly are located on the Counselor's Office tab on the school web page. During the month of March, the elementary students are participating in activities and discussing the character trait: CARING. An assembly will be held when we get back from Spring Break to recognize those students.

On March 11th, the Middle School Students participated in the 3rd Nine Weeks Honors Assembly. At this assembly we recognized students who made the A Honor Roll (3.67 and above GPA), the B Honor Roll (2.67-3.66 GPA), and the .5 Club (students who raised their GPA .5 or higher from the second to the third nine weeks). After the assembly, all of the students celebrated with ice cream floats. I want to thank the PTO for purchasing the materials to make the floats. They were enjoyed by all.

The middle school students are continuing to be involved in Project TEEN. These lessons will conclude in the next 4-5 weeks.

I also have an intern this semester, Elva Samaniego. She is working towards being a school counselor, and she is working with students individually, in small groups, and in classrooms. If you would like for your student to meet with her for assistance, please let me know.

Finally, make sure to visit the Counselor's Office page when you are on the school web site. I've included future dates, assembly articles/pictures, and a parent SIT form to name a few. If you need to contact me, please feel free to call or email.

Have a great Spring Break!

Mrs. Aimee Landgren

Fantastic Fifth Grade

We are starting our last nine weeks. We are preparing for our big assessments. Our class is learning different ways to "sell" a book to their classmates. We will finish the year with a play entitled Tall Tales of the Wild West. The fifth graders are working hard to learn their parts and making the props. We would like to see everyone make their AR goal for the final nine weeks.

Mrs. Kuhn's First Grade Class

It is hard to believe the school year is three-fourths over. The first graders have grown so much this year. They are now doing Accelerated Reader tests. They are doing 2-digit addition problems. We have had Taryn Lobmeyer, ESU intern, in our classroom. She will be leaving in March. She has been teaching dental health and the food groups to them. For the 100 day of school we did fun activities to celebrate. We worked on a book to celebrate Kansas Day.

Thanks to all the parents who were able to come to parent-teacher conferences. I enjoyed talking with you about your child! Also, thank you to the room parents for a great Valentine's Day party!

Americus NLC Library News

Lions, tigers, and bears, Oh my! Snow days, illness, and broken arms, OH MY! Since Christmas life has been very hectic and the weather challenging!

The book fair was challenged by all of the above and a flooded basement as well. However, students, parents, aides and volunteers pitched in to make it a success. I was sad to have missed our first chance to have two fairs, two cash registers, and a great collection of books for middle school, but Scholastic will give us another chance with the two fairs in the fall. Also new was the opportunity to order online and have those orders add to our profit. The advantage of this is it gives our students' families who live far away the ability to help our school and/or buy books for their relatives who are students here. Hopefully next fall, we'll give that service a try!

A special thank you to Americus students, parents, aides and volunteers who worked the book fair. And a special thank you to all those who finished setting it up and then packed it up at the end! You are amazing!

We have students who have read over one million words so far this year: Mayo Arevalo (3 million), Claire Hamlin (2 million), Abby Doudna (2 million), and Tristan Guzman, Kaitlin Houck, Calee Hoyt, Austin Anderson, Tyler Ross, Timi Clark, Wyatt Hall, Megan French, Megan Irvin, and Michael DeWeese all are over 1 million words. They have certainly found the love of reading!

We are now in the last nine weeks. Students will continue to work on Accelerated Reader goals and enjoy Renaissance Place that gives them access to all the quizzes made by Renaissance. This program has really added value to our student's reading success. If you have not gained access to Home Connect, ask your student or a teacher for how you can get this service online. Home Connect allows you to see what books your student has read and also to see how they are doing on Quizzes and goals.

Have a great Spring! Enjoy a good book in the sunshine and warmth!

AMERICUS/NLC PTO CARNIVAL

Please join us for the First Annual Americus/NLC PTO Carnival on Thursday March 17th from 6 to 8 p.m. We will have a dinner, bingo, carnival games, prizes, and a silent auction to raise money for our school. Tickets are \$1 each. Carnival games will be one ticket each and played in the gym. There are many games that should appeal to all ages. Bingo will be played in the library: 1 ticket per card for each game. There are many great bingo prizes to choose from. Dinner is being served in the lunch room. We will serve walking tacos, drink, and desert for \$5.00 each. The silent auction will be in the Jr. High hallway with over 25 baskets of items to bid on. Some baskets include: Royals tickets/game day items, KU and K-State items, BBQ accessories and meat. There are baskets for children, the cooking enthusiast, and more. Most auction baskets are valued at \$100 or more. Bidding starts at \$20. Come and join the fun!





NORTHERN HEIGHTS WILDCAT NEWS

Dear Patrons,

The 3rd nine weeks is in the books and the weather is teasing us with thoughts of Spring. It's hard to believe how quickly the time passes.

We have completed the State Reading Assessment and the results are looking promising. Unofficially, the juniors finished at 100% proficient and could make Standard of Excellence. The sophomores did not quite make their AYP goal for next year, but still have a chance to improve. Math Assessments will take place prior to Spring Break, with Science and Social Studies following after Spring Break. Prior to the start of testing, an all school assembly was held to recognize those students that scored exemplary on last year's assessments. It was good for those students to receive the peer recognition.

Northern Heights has been participating in the State of Kansas Character Education Grant for the last three years. This year we moved from a control school to an Impact school, receiving more intensive training for our staff. On top of that, we were chosen to be one of two Leader Schools in the State of Kansas. This means our experiences and data will become part of the national research for the developers of this program. We are proud to be selected, and look forward to meeting with the developers and state personnel in early April.

Spring sports practices have begun, with competitions beginning the first of April. Forensics, music, FCCLA and FBLA all have big competitions coming up shortly after the break. The fourth quarter has a tendency to fly by with all of the activities that are occurring. It's important for students to stay focused on their studies and finish strong for the year.

Hope the weather cooperates and everyone has a great Spring Break.

Sincerely,

Doug Boline

CALENDAR

March 21-25	Spring Break
March 28	FHL Forensics @ Herington
March 30	FHL Instrumental and Vocal Music @ ESU 9:00a.m
March 31	FBLA State Conferences
April 1	FBLA State Conferences
April 4	FHL Art Day at NHHS FCCLA State Leadership Conference NHHS Site Based Council Meeting
April 5	Golf-NHHS at Jeff West 3:00 p.m. FCCLA State Leadership Conference
April 7	Baseball-NHHS at Mission Valley 4:30 p.m. Golf-NHHS at Herington 3:00 Softball-NHHS at Mission Valley 4:30 p.m.
April 8	Track-NHHS at SE Saline 3:30 p.m.
April 9	ACT Test
April 11	School Board Meeting 8:00 p.m.
April 12	Baseball- St. Marys at NHHS 4:30 p.m. Golf- NHHS Invitational at Emporia Municipal 3:00 p.m.

	Softball- St. Marys at NHHS 4:30 p.m.
April 13-14	State Music
April 14	Travis Sheeley Memorial Track Meet at NHHS 12:30 p.m.
April 15	NHHS Community Blood Drive
	Baseball- West Franklin at NHHS 4:30 p.m.
	Softball- West Franklin at NHHS 4:30 p.m.
April 16	Forensics Regionals
April 19	Baseball- NHHS at Osage City 4:30 p.m.
	Softball- NHHS at Osage City 4:30 p.m.
	Golf- NHHS at Santa Fe Trail 1:00 p.m.
April 20	NHHS Spring Concert
April 21	Baseball-NHHS at Wabaunsee 4:30 p.m.
	Softball- NHHS at Wabaunsee 4:30 p.m.
	Track- NHHS at Council Grove 3:30 p.m.
April 22	No School
April 25	Golf- NHHS at Rossville-JV 3:30 p.m.
	School Board Meeting 8:00 p.m.
April 26	Golf- NHHS at St Marys 9:00 a.m.
	Softball- Rossville at NHHS 4:30 p.m.
April 28	Golf- NHHS at Council Grove 3:00 p.m.
April 29	Baseball –Council Grove at NHHS 4:30 p.m.
	Softball- Council Grove at NHHS 4:30 p.m.
	Golf-NHHS at Lyndon-JV 3:00 p.m.
	Track- NHHS at St Marys 3:30 p.m.
April 30	Spring Play

RECYLING NOTICE!!!

The recycling trailer at NHHS scheduled for March 24th, has been moved to March 31st because of spring break. Then back to normal...

FCCLA – Family, Career, Community Leaders of America

Members are competing in state competition in April. Students submit STAR event projects in front of judges. STAR stands for Students Taking Action for Recognition. Projects include “Fats and Sugars” by Cheyenne Savage. Cheyenne presented her talk in front of health and FACS classes. Hailey Anstey and Moriah Miner, “Seatbelts are for Everyone”. They have presented their project for driver’s education classes and the Lyon County Commission. Amber Atchison and Corrie Hawthorne, “Stop the Violence”. They are working with middle school students in health classes and SOS groups. Brian Hultgren, “One Way to Play-Drug Free”. Brian has been leading lessons at FCA meetings and plans to present his project at the state FCA camp in April. Kimberly Smith and Michelle Ankerholz, “Chapter Showcase”. This project highlights our local chapter and activities and will be presented to new members and upcoming eighth grade students.

During the State Leadership Conference, students also have a chance to go to leadership sessions, listen to speakers, and attend a formal dance. Good Luck students attending state on April 4 and 5.

Scholars Bowl

The 2010-2011 Scholars’ Bowl season has come to an end. Despite early struggles, the team was finally able to jell and I believe it has ended on a high note. Since Christmas, the teams competed in several tournaments. The Junior Varsity team competed at Santa Fe Trail on January 24. Although finishing with a record of 2 and 7, I felt they did very well. Most of the rounds were very close and many of the teams they competed against were 4a and 5a schools. But more importantly, they gained valuable

experience that will help them contribute to the team in the future. The Varsity team competed several times. On January 6 the team competed at Cair Paravel Latin School in Topeka. The team finished with a record of 3 and 4 which was not enough to move on to finals. On January 13, the team traveled to West Franklin where they finished with a record of 2 and 5. This year's Flinthills League tournament was hosted by Herington. This year there was no JV tournament held at League. The Varsity team really stepped up and finished with a record of 4 and 3 which was enough to medal with a 3rd place finish. Participants included Jesse Floyd, Alex Larson, Callie Whittington, Michael Hawthorne, Luke Larson and Corrie Hawthorne. After a week's delay due to weather, the same participants as went to league then traveled to Doniphan West High School on February 10 to compete at Regionals. The team finished pool play with a record of 5 and 3 which was good enough to move onto finals. The team finished the Regional tournament by placing 5th. I was very proud of our students this year. It was more difficult to get to school early for practices and practice time and I want to thank all those who made it. We will be graduating five senior team members this year. They will all be missed. However, I look forward to next year with great anticipation and opportunities for lots of new faces on our team.

Results of Afghan



The Sophomore Class at Northern Heights has been working on a fundraiser raffle for an American Flag Afghan, donated by Rose Heathman. The drawing was held in the school office February 23rd. The winning ticket was Linda Huddleston of Americus. Congratulations! A big thank



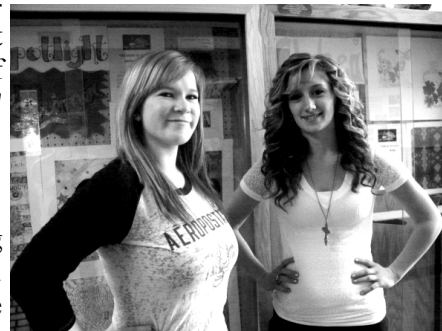
you to everyone who participated in this fundraiser for the Sophomore Class!



We have 2 seniors that are on spotlight right now! You can see both of their artwork in the glass case by the art room and in the library at Northern Heights.

JACINDA SCRIVNER

"I've been in Art for 3 years and I have enjoyed it very much! Art is my favorite class because it keeps my mind off



things that bother me. Also, Mrs. Schmitz is my favorite teacher!"
Favorite medias: Pencil, Painting & Stippling

CHELSEA CARR

"I've been in Art for 4 years. I enjoy Art because I love creating something that people like to look at and that I'm proud of. Mrs. Schmitz is an amazing teacher and has really helped me improve my artistic abilities." Favorite medias: Photography, Jewelry & Painting

Future Business Leaders of America

District VII contest was difficult to get completed this year with all the snow and snow days! However, it finally happened. The Northern Heights High School Chapter of FBLA and the North Lyon County Middle Level Chapter traveled to Wellsville to compete in District VII Contest. The following table gives the results of the competition.

North Lyon County Middle Level Chapter		
Sarah Moyer	First	Career Exploration
Megan French	Fourth	Career Exploration
Aaron Larson	Fifth	Career Exploration
Josey Wooderson	Sixth	Career Exploration
Claire Hamlin	Seventh	Career Exploration
Abby Doudra	Eighth	Career Exploration
Jordyn Harmon	Ninth	Career Exploration
Ana Grother	Tenth	Career Exploration
Megan French	First	Proofreading
Sarah Moyer	Third	Proofreading
Aaron Larson	Fourth	Proofreading
Josey Wooderson	Fifth	Proofreading
Abby Doudra	Seventh	Proofreading
Madison Dragunas	Ninth	Proofreading
Jordyn Harmon	Tenth	Proofreading
Northern Heights High School		
Nathan Stinson	Fifth	Accounting I
Chelsea Carr	Tenth	Accounting I
Jenna Ferguson	First	Accounting II
Ariisa Moyer	Fourth	Accounting II
Elizabeth Karr	Sixth	Accounting II
Jenna Ferguson	Fourth	Accounting II Production
Ariisa Moyer	Fifth	Accounting II Production
Elizabeth Karr	Sixth	Accounting II Production
Nathan Stinson	First	Business Calculations
Elizabeth Karr	First	Business Communication
Brittney Houck	First	Business Math
Hannah Berry	Third	Business Math
Dana Hatch	Ninth	Business Math
Alexus Atchison	Tenth	Business Math
Dana Hatch	Fourth	FBLA Principles & Procedures
Brittney Houck	Seventh	FBLA Principles & Procedures
Brittney Harmon	Second	Intro to Business Communications
Brittney Houck	Third	Intro to Business Communications
Hannah Berry	Ninth	Intro to Business Communications
Brittney Houck	Fifth	Intro to Parliamentarian Procedures
Jenna Ferguson	First	Personal Finance
Sierra Taylor	Third	Personal Finance
Katelyn Zornes	Seventh	Personal Finance
Alexus Atchison	Eighth	Personal Finance
Brittney Harmon	Eighth	Ms. FBL Written
Ariisa Moyer	Ninth	Ms. FBL Written
Elizabeth Karr, Jenna Ferguson and Nathan Stinson	Second	Management Decision Making Written
Jenna Ferguson	Third	Computer Applications
Jenna Ferguson	Second	Spreadsheet Applications
Sydney DeLong	Seventh	Word Processing I
Katelyn Zornes	Sixth	Word Processing II
Brittney Harmon	Seventh	Word Processing II

The high school chapter and the middle level chapter will travel to Topeka March 31 to compete at the state level.