



USD 251 NORTH LYON COUNTY NEWSLETTER

October 2011

COMMENTS FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

We hope you enjoy the year's first newsletter, as the process of creating it has undergone a considerable change. Due to the reductions in state aid for education, the position that was responsible for producing the newsletter no longer exists. It is our goal to continue to provide patrons timely and informative news in an entertaining format by having each school create their own pages. These are then combined into the final newsletter. Each school will post their news to their websites and the district newsletter will be posted and archived on the district home page. Thank you for your patience as we iron out the inevitable bugs in the new process.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Last spring, the Patron Insight survey commissioned by the Board of Education indicated a significant desire for the district to provide an after school program. We responded by implementing just such a program at both elementary schools. However, due to the decreases in funding from the State, these programs would need to be financially self supporting. Based upon our costs for supervision and snacks, the break even participation rate for the program is approximately fifteen students. The year began well above that number, but has since declined to between 11 and 12 students daily. It is possible that cold weather may bring an increase in those numbers, which would certainly guarantee the continuation of this valuable opportunity.

The After School Program cost is \$2.50/hour and provides a maximum of two hours of supervision that includes homework help, instructional games and activities, and a daily snack. Higher levels of consistent participation may allow the district to reduce the rate, but further decline may force the discontinuation of this service.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For a complete schedule of activities in the district, please either check the school calendar or our website at <http://www.usd251.org>. If you do not have a school calendar and would like one, please call the District Office at 620-443-5116.

ESSAY CONTEST

The Masonic Grand Lodge of Kansas will again be holding an Essay Contest for Junior and Senior class students in public high schools in Kansas. This is the 52nd consecutive contest and the topic for this year's Essay Contest is entitled: "Who is the most prominent Kansas figure from its 150 year history? Explain."



Winners of the local Lodge contests will complete for State scholarships. Winners must enroll in a Kansas tax-supported accredited university, college community college, or vocational-technical school to receive the award. A total of \$12,000.00 will be awarded in prizes. The first place winner will receive \$4,000.00, the second place winner \$3,000.00, the third place winner \$2,000.00 and the fourth place winner \$1,000.00. Four honorable mentions will be awarded \$500.00 each.

Essays must not be longer than 500 words and only winners on the local level are eligible to represent a Lodge at the state level. Essays must be submitted to the local Masonic Lodge on or before November 1, 2011 to be judged for the state-wide competition.

NHHS HOMECOMING PARADE—BBQ SANDWICH FEED—PEP RALLY

On Wednesday, October 5, 2011 come and show your WILDCAT spirit at the annual Homecoming Parade in downtown Allen. Parade begins at 6:30 PM. We are looking for parade entries: floats, clubs, bands, bicycles, pets, antique cars, fire trucks, businesses, horses and anyone else who wants to enter. This a great opportunity to show your WILDCAT spirit. Deadline to enter is September 30, 2011. For entry forms or more details contact Marcia Huffman at 620-528-3543 or 785-633-1800 or huffman@satelephone.com. Following the parade everyone is invited to join the NHHS Booster Club at Jones Park for a free BBQ beef sandwich and pep rally. For more information contact Lisa Fuller at 620-343-6829 or triplef89@yahoo.com. Come join the fun and support the Northern Heights Wildcats!



HOMECOMING EVENTS



Northern Heights After Prom Committee will be hosting a hamburger and brat feed at the football field on Friday, October 7, from 5:30 –7:30 PM.

Dinner includes: hamburger or brat, chips, baked beans, homemade dessert, and a drink all for only \$5.00. Extra hamburger or brat \$2.00 Extra dessert \$1.00

Come enjoy an evening of football, food, and fun. Everyone is welcome! Eat and then stay to cheer on the Northern Heights Wildcats as they take on West Franklin.

Reading



Principal's Pen

By Peggy Fort

Dear Parents,

I would like to welcome everyone back to a new school year and a big welcome to all new students and families. Time is moving quickly. The end of the first nine weeks is October 21. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held October 25 and October 26 from 5:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. There will be no morning conferences this year. Notes will be sent home with your student soon asking for your general time preference on one of those days.

Our annual Fall Festival and Halloween party will be held on October 31. Red Ribbon Week will be held during the week of October 24 through October 27. There will be no school on October 28.

THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE USD #251

Reading School's theme this year is There is No Place Like USD 251. We will have a twister of a year following the yellow brick road while building your children's learning. Each month Reading School is focusing on a new character trait. In September, the trait was **Kindness**—having or showing a tender considerate, friendly, generous or warmhearted nature to people, animals, and the environment. The trait for October is **Respect**—showing consideration and appreciation; honoring people and caring about their rights. The color of the month is orange.

BUILDING READING IN USD 251

Title I

Peggy Fort—Erin Stahl

Schools that have Title I programs such as we have in our elementary school are required to give notice to parents that they may inquire about the professional qualifications of their students' Title classroom teacher, including the following:

- Whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction:
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification of licensing criteria have been waived:
- The baccalaureate degree major the teacher and other graduate certification or degree held by the teachers. The field of discipline of the certification or degree: and
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Title teachers in North Lyon County have met the qualifications of Highly Qualified Teachers for the 2011-2012 school year.

FIRST GRADE WITH MRS. PHILLIPS: The first few days of first grade have been exciting getting into a routine and figuring out what first grade is all about. So far, the majority of students would say that recess, PE, and lunch are their favorite parts of school. Some would say they love calendar time on the Promethean board because we sing along with cool songs found on the internet. They especially love the song where they get up, dance, and follow the directions of the song. They are very interested in the map and already can name seven states! Others would say centers and free time on Friday is their favorite part of school. My favorite part is when I ask them to raise their hand if they had a marvelous day and they all shoot their hand up high with huge smiles on their faces. I look forward to a most marvelous year with the wonderful first graders at Reading.

FOURTH GRADE WITH MRS. BEATTY: Reading Elementary fourth graders have jumped right into this new school year. We have taken time throughout the past few weeks to develop our classroom management system. The students have a huge role in developing our class rules and management system. They have enjoyed this opportunity!

Our new Math Series, 'enVision Math', has spiced up our math class with interactive lessons on the whiteboard and many student differentiating ideas. It's going to be fun to watch the kids flourish with our new common core standards.

Students will be receiving their individualized spelling lists starting the week of Sept. 12th. This is a great opportunity for each child to see their spelling skills soar! I am looking forward to sharing many exciting and educational moments with each one of these children. It's going to be a year full of unique learning experiences for the students and for myself.

NEWS FROM MR. HAAG: The year is starting out with a lot of activity going on. This year I will be in your child's classrooms in the mornings for classroom guidance lessons. In the afternoon I will be with them for physical education.

The guidance lessons have been centered on self-esteem. The students have been sharing things about themselves, and learning more about each other.

In the physical education classes we began the year introducing some of the different games we play during the year. After that we did some testing to see where their skill levels are.

Throughout the year we will be doing various units and activities in the physical education class. We have now just begun our first unit of an activity. This activity is volleyball. The students are learning some of the rules and techniques they need to incorporate into the game to enhance their success in this activity.



**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SAVE CAMPBELL'S PRODUCT LABELS
AND BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION
TO HELP OUR SCHOOL**



Elementary Music Newsletter

Welcome back to another great school year! The elementary music students are off to a great start and are learning a lot about music. Music students have been welcomed this year by their new teacher Mrs. Gay. Class is a little different than what they are used to, but they are all adapting well and are very supportive.



The concepts that the students have been studying for the past month are as follows: Kindergarten – steady beat and loud and soft; 1st Grade – loud and soft, steady beat and movement skills; 2nd Grade – two parts to a song, quarter notes and eighth notes, and difference between beat and rhythm; 3rd Grade – different tempo's and dynamics, long and short, and beat and rhythm; 4th Grade – two sections in a song, phrases, and melodic direction; 5th Grade – melodic direction, tempo, and call and response songs. This is just a little bit of what the students have been doing so far, but there are many more things to come!

Upcoming Events:

Americus/NLC Winter Concert December 7th at 7:00 pm



Social Studies by Mr. Chanley

American History 8th Grade

Did you know that George Washington was the best spymaster in American History? Washington ran dozens of espionage rings in British-held New York and Philadelphia, and the man who supposedly could not tell a lie was a genius at disinformation. Washington constantly confused the British by leaking, through double agents, false reports on the strength of his army.

Ancient History 6th Grade

Why was the Nile River so important to the Ancient Egyptians? Ancient Egypt could not have existed without the Nile River. Since rainfall is almost non-existent in Egypt, the floods provided the only source of moisture to sustain crops. Over the next two weeks we will be covering Ancient Egypt and the life of the people living there.

Do you know what the ancient Egyptians believed would cure a toothache?
Fried Mice! YUCK

Kansas History 7th Grade

Bleeding Kansas

John Brown told his followers that they must "fight fire with fire," and they must "strike terror in the hearts of the pro-slavery people."

On May 24th, John Brown entered the pro-slavery town of Pottawatomie Creek. Armed with knives, rifles, and broadswords, Brown and his sons stormed the houses of his enemies. One by one, Brown's group dragged out helpless victims and hacked at their heads with the broadswords. After the night was through, five victims lay brutally slain by the hands of John Brown.

Mr. Chanley comes to us from Southern Coffey County where he taught for 8 years. We welcome him and he is going to be a great asset to our school.

Northern Heights



Dear Patrons,

Another school year has begun, and we've hit the ground running. With our later start date this year, it seems like activities have come on us quickly. Volleyball, Football and Cross-Country are past the half-way points of their seasons. We'll be in the post-season before we know it. All of the clubs have had their organizational meetings, and have begun activities. Please encourage your child to become involved in activities; research shows involved students are more successful in school.

MAP testing started September 19 and should have wrapped up this week. Students test in Reading, Language Arts, Math and Science, with teachers analyzing the results to help guide instruction.

If you used Infinite Campus to follow your students' progress last year, you can access the program with the same username and password you had last year. If you are new to the system, please call and we can get you signed up. Those that have used the system have found it to be very beneficial.

We are continuing with a Seminar period this year. Students attend Seminar daily, and take part in character initiatives and mentoring, as well as grade support. If you are interested in knowing what is going on in school on a daily basis, check the Northern Heights page on the district website for our daily announcements.

We're off to a great start, and are all looking forward to another great year. As always, don't hesitate to call us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Doug Boline



Student Council

Mark Hanks, president, and Brittney Houck, vice president, along with class and club representatives, attended the annual Student Council Retreat at Camp Wood at Elmdale on Sept. 28. The event, held annually for the Flint Hills League schools, fosters continuing camaraderie and commitment to student council work. Herington High School was this year's host school. Heights representatives who attended included Michelle Ankerholtz, Michael Hawthorne, Lindsee Colglazier, Brandon Miller, Logan Fuller, Erin Lewis, Madison Dragonas, Wyatt Hall, Fionna Colpan, Kimberly Smith, Natasha Van Gundy and Hanna Berry.

The Homecoming dance, sponsored by StuCo, will be held Oct. 7.

FCCLA

The FCCLA members will once again paint children's faces and blow up balloons for them at a booth at Americus Days. Members also will be selling cookies, with the proceeds going to the Playscape Project in the Americus Park. A similar booth will be set up at the Admire Days, with proceeds going to the Admire Shelter House.

Dues of \$10 are still due and the Fall Leadership Academy will be Nov. 2. Officers this year are Moriah Miner, president; Savanna Chestnut, vice president; Hailey Anstey, Community Service, and Michelle Ankerholtz, public relations.

Recycling Trailer will be at NHHS

October 13 & 27

November 10

December 1 & 15

FBLA

The annual spaghetti supper was held before the football game on Sept. 23. The event is a fundraiser for costs associated with the state and national conventions. This past June five Heights students attended the national convention in Orlando, Fla. They were Arissa Moyer and Nathan Stinson in Business Plan, Chelsea Carr and Sierra Taylor in Business Financial Plan and Jenna Ferguson in Database Design.

Officers this year are Arissa Moyer, president; Brittney Harmon, vice president; Hannah Berry, secretary-treasurer, and Brittney Houck, historian-editor.

Student of the Month

Each month teachers nominate one student from each of the four classes to be named a Student of the Month. The criteria for nomination is based, not on a student's academic or athletic achievements, but rather on the teacher's perception of the student as an all-around, noteworthy, "good kid." Each student receives a gift certificate from Student Council and is included in a group picture that is exhibited in the commons area.

The September Students of the Month are: Mark Hanks, senior; Marah Schneider, junior; Lakota Preisner, sophomore, and Lakin Preisner, freshman.