

# USD 467 Community Newsletter

## December 10, 2009

### Wichita County Public Schools

District Office  
106 South Indian Road  
Leoti, Kansas 67861  
(620) 375-4677

RB Stewart Elementary  
200 East J Street  
Leoti, Kansas 67861  
(620) 375-2314

Wichita Co. Junior-High School  
800 West Broadway  
Leoti, Kansas 67861  
(620) 375-2213

*Dear USD 467 Community,*

*Please take a few minutes to read our community newsletter. We hope the information is helpful and informative. Thank you for supporting your community schools and thank you to all who have contributed to this effort. Feel free to contact us with ideas and comments!*

#### **From the Superintendent-**

*Dear Wichita County Community,*

*It doesn't seem like the holidays until the community Christmas parade and the children's programs. There is something special about the enthusiasm of the students, parents, grandparents and other family members at the school programs.*

*As we close out 2009 and the first half of the school year, we have much of which to be enthusiastic. We continue to exceed the Kansas requirements for*



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state assessment scores. Although we are in tough economic times, we are meeting the challenges of keeping our school district financially stable. Because of the support of our community we have a facility plan that will meet the needs of our district for as long as we can imagine. One of the reasons I continue to be enthusiastic is because of the great people of Wichita County. Our school district receives wonderful support and there isn't a week that goes by that I don't meet someone who reinforces my belief in the character of our community. As we end 2009, we sincerely thank you for your interest and support of our efforts to give the students of Wichita County a quality education. We wish you the best this holiday season.

As always, it is an honor to be your community school superintendent.

Yours in Education,  
Dr. Jim Hardy

## **Principal Higgins Receives Honor**

Mr. Keith Higgins, Wichita County Jr-Sr High Principal was recognized as the Southwest Kansas Music Educators (SWKMEA) Honor Administrator. He was nominated by the Wichita County music teachers. Mr. Higgins received a plaque presented by Mr. Kelly Knedler, SWKMEA president at the Dodge City High School Auditorium on Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

## **State Budget Cuts Continue to hit Wichita County Community Schools!**

During the week of November 23<sup>rd</sup> your Wichita County Community schools received the news that its budget is immediately being reduced by \$162,000 as a part of state budget cuts. This brings the USD 467 budget reductions, because of loss of enrollment and state budgets cuts, over the past four years to over \$500,000. Because the Wichita County Board of Education has made the difficult decisions regarding staffing, and the district reduced the individual school, transportation, maintenance, and food service budgets, it has the funds to make it through the 2009-2010 school year. The school district must continue to cut back where possible to save funds for further expected budget cuts. It is a compliment to our school personnel and community that we are able to maintain while many other Kansas school districts struggle.

## **Construction News!**

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, bids were opened for the multi-purpose dome to be built on the north side of the Wichita County Junior-Senior High School. Custom Construction and Design Inc. of Herriman, Utah won the bid with a price tag of \$652, 410. This is to be paid from the USDA grant of \$500,000 with the remainder to come from the USD 467 capital outlay funds. Ground is expected to be broken right after the holidays and if the weather cooperates the Wichita County community should see much progress. The Vo-Ag shop, the additions to the old Junior high, and energy upgrades, are ready to be bid out. One of the goals is to get the energy upgrades started soon so the district can reap the savings on utility bills. Look for regular construction updates in the Leoti Standard when the project becomes active.

## Thank you!

- To the **TRIBE-WCHS Booster Club** for the steak dinner on Friday and desserts on Saturday in support of the musical!
- Thank you to our substitutes who are so willing to step up to the plate and help our district.
- Thank you to the custodial staff for clearing the SNOW and keeping our buildings comfortable.
- Kudos to our volunteers who help our teachers and make special activities even more special.

## TO RECEIVE SCHOOL CANCELLATION NOTIFICATION SUBSCRIBE TO TEXTCASTER!

Sponsored by:

### Western State Bank

TEXTCASTER is online and active! Don't miss out on school district activities-sports, music, meetings, school closings. Go to [leoti.org](http://leoti.org) and sign-up today. Scroll down to the link and follow the easy two-step process and you will become part of the Wichita County USD 467 family!

Don't forget to join the:

## TRIBE Booster Club!

Look for the TRIBE table at the home games! TRIBE supports your WCHS student's activities including music, sports, speech contests, and scholar's bowl!

## RB Stewart Grade School News!



Students enjoyed many special activities during **RBSES Read Week**. Activities included: A visit to the museum; caroling at businesses; hot chocolate served by Donna Lou Elder, Lyn Lewis, and Joyce Lewis; Pajama Day read-in; a free book for each student; and a visit from John Hall, a Kansas children's author.

**Coins for Angels:** Students have been bringing coins to sponsor two angels from the Security State Bank Angel Tree. They are very excited to be helping others during the holiday season.

**During library time in November**, students in grades 3 through 6 were read the book *One Thousand Tracings* which is a William Allen White book for 2009-2010.

This is the story of an American family's huge and successful effort to relieve the suffering of many Europeans who were homeless and starving after World War II. The author, Lita Judge, discovered a letter her grandmother had received from German friends who were starving and had no shoes. The letter contained tracings of their feet. As a result of that one letter and many that followed, the grandmother and her friends helped hundreds of people by sending shoes, even some that were worn out. The shoes were better than nothing. They also sent food and clothing.

Following the reading of the story, the 3-6 graders made tracings of their own feet using newspaper and posted them in the library and

## WCJS News!



\*During the week before Thanksgiving, WCJS High school students bought "Dollar bills" to cover the high school teacher's classroom doors. It was determined that it would take 60 bills to cover a teacher's door and if the door was covered, students would not have to attend that teacher's class on Chill Day. During a last minute flurry, enough bills were bought to cover every high school classroom door. The students then had Chill Day to attend the activities that the High School STUCO planned. More than \$1,200 in Chill Bills were purchased and those funds were donated to the Wichita County Ministerial Alliance.

\*The WCJS High School Winter Music Concert originally scheduled for December 8 has been rescheduled for Wednesday, January 6, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. This date was chosen to avoid conflicts with the other junior and senior high activities. Even though some of the selections performed will be Christmas music I'm sure everyone will enjoy the evening. After all, that day is Epiphany, when the Wise Men arrived at Bethlehem to pay homage to the Child.

\*Winter sports are in full swing with junior high and high school girls' and boys' basketball and high school wrestling competing. WCJS High School has been chosen as a site for 2-A Sub-state basketball post-season play beginning the first week in March of 2010. The games played Monday and

surrounding hallways. The students were able to accumulate one thousand tracings!!!! From this library experience, the students realized what a thousand tracings looked like, how war affects the simplest of needs and how much our students had to be thankful for as they entered the season of Thanksgiving.

**Best wishes for the Holidays  
And Thank you for your support of your  
community schools!**



**The Board of Education,  
Administration, Staff and Students  
Of  
Wichita County**

Tuesday will be at the site of the best record for boys and girls, with the semifinals and finals held here in Leoti. More information will be made public as the time gets closer. We have not yet heard where the high school wrestlers will have their Regional tournament. The junior high basketball teams will have their league tournament the first week in February. After that the junior high wrestlers will begin their season.

\*WCJSHS is also a site for a 2-A Regional Scholar's Bowl competition again this year. We will be hosting most of the western Kansas 2-A Scholar's Bowl teams with the winner advancing to the State Scholar's Bowl. The competition here is scheduled for February 4, 2010 and will begin at 3:00.

\*Mr. Higgins would like to extend a big Thank You to Tori Koehn and Allen Brockmeier for nominating him for the South West Kansas Music Educators Association Honor Administrator of the year. Thanks to their kind words, with help from Amber Miller, he did receive that recognition and was presented with a plaque during the SW KMEA High School Honor Concert on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Several of our WCJHSH vocal and instrumental students were members and took part in the outstanding concert. It's great to have such well-rounded students attending WCJSHS!

***!For Your Calendar!***

**December 17<sup>th</sup>** The RBSES winter concert will be at 7:00pm in the Junior-Senior High auditorium.

***Early Childhood Screenings***

USD 467 and High Plains Educational Cooperative are offering free Early Childhood Screening for preschool ages 3-5 years.

The following areas will be screened:

- ❖ Vision/Hearing
- ❖ Speech/Language Development
- ❖ Cognitive/Educational Skills
- ❖ Social Development
- ❖ Adaptive/Self Help Skills
- ❖ Fine and Gross Motor Skills

To find out more about your child's development, schedule a screening with your local Early Childhood Specialist.

For more information and to schedule a screening contact Amy Spencer at RB Stewart Elementary at 375-2314.

***"Coming together is a beginning.  
Keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success."  
-Henry Ford***

**"Continuing Our Tradition of Excellence in Education."**

**For more up to date school news, stories, and pictures, please subscribe to the Leoti Standard. Thank you to Pat for her great coverage of our community schools!!!!**