

USD 467 Community Newsletter

March 10, 2010

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,

At this time of the year, with Spring (and Spring Fever) almost here, one might think that we would be starting to relax, having made it through three quarters of the school year. It is actually the opposite. Students are currently taking state assessments that their teachers have been preparing them for all year. The 2010-2011 calendar is being developed. Secondary music students are going to contests. Grade school teachers are diligently



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working to help their students master the skills to move to the next grade. The details of summer school are being worked out. Spring sports have started and plans are being made for the summer athletic conditioning program. Most importantly, there is much to be taught and learned before our students finish the 2009-2010 year of their education.

Spring is a special time in Wichita County that comes from the promise of a good rain, seeing our neighbors more, and the general optimism of the great people of Western Kansas.

Best wishes for a great Spring.

*Yours in Education,
Dr. Jim Hardy*

!Calendar Updates!

May 13th NO SCHOOL pre-k-12th grades

(Junior High League Music at WC Jr-Sr high, and teacher in-service at RBS elementary)

Parent/Teachers Conferences Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on Tuesday evening, March 23 and Thursday evening, March 25, with conferences both days from 4:30 to 8:30pm.

Booster Club Winter Sports/Activities banquet March 22 6:30pm

Rosetta Stone:

Southwest Plains Regional Service Center (USD 467 is a member) is offering one year \$100 Rosetta Stone subscriptions for community members who would like to learn another language. If interested please call the USD 467 school district office.

School Budget Update

There has been much discussion in the current session of the Kansas State legislature regarding the pattern of budget cuts in Kansas services such as schools. Kansas was \$75 million in debt in March and the state is averaging \$18 million more in debt each month. Schools were spared in the most recent state budget cuts as there are only 3 to 4 months of our budget left (a school budget is July 1st to June 30th) and some schools would have had to close down for the year if the cuts were severe. With the help of our staff we have been saving and under spending to offset this summer's expected cut of approximately \$250,000 when we begin our new budget year.

Construction News!

The multi-purpose dome and connector building on the north side of the junior-senior high are moving right along. Plans are to break ground for the new Vocational Agricultural building during the week of March 8th and start the dirt work on the new grade school the week of March 15th. If you would like a tour of the efforts to this point please feel free to contact Dr. Hardy at the school district office.

Thank you!

- We would like to acknowledge and show appreciation of two very special volunteers: Martha Meyers has devoted hours to the music program creating stage props for performances and also helping with copying, laminating, and bulletin boards. Juanita Fischer has been helping to shelve books in the library; a never ending job with the number of books that our students read.
- A giant thank you to the National Honor Society and sponsor, Julie Conard for sponsoring the Box tops collections. The group has provided the class that collects the most Box tops with a pizza party each semester. This really inspires the students! Last year's funds from Box tops were used to purchase Bal-A-Vis-X materials, sand toys for the Early Childhood playground, and a class set of yo-yos for Mrs. Campas.

RECEIVE SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS AND OTHER NEWS

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 and sign-up today. Scroll down to the link and follow the easy two-step process to become a part of the Wichita County USD 467 text family!

Don't forget to join: Your students benefit.

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!



Principal: Mrs. Dawn McKinney

The Wichita County AIM (Add fruits and vegetables, Increase activity, Minimize screen time) Committee has contributed to your community schools. This is year 3 for the Aim initiative. The Western Kansas Community Foundation has awarded Wichita County Aim Committee \$25,000 this year. The committee would like to help fund several school health/wellness programs. The committee has allotted the following:

- Healthy Snack Cart \$ 500.00
- Bal-A-Vis-X balance boards and possibly more stability balls \$ 2500.00
- Body Venture by KSDE \$ 500.00
- In-service for two staff members at the Working Well Conference \$1500.00
- Playground Enhancements \$10,000.00 (Interested in helping with basketball goals/court)

Wichita County Junior-Senior High News!

Principal: Mr. Keith Higgins



Thanks to all the students and parents who attended the Exemplary Student Recognition last month. It was great to see all the parents in the stands and even better having more than 100 students receive certificates and medals for achieving the highest level on last year's State assessments! Thanks also to the teachers for all their hard work preparing the kids to do their best. Congratulations students, good luck and study hard for this year's tests and let's see if we can get more students at the recognition next year!

Thanks to all the district patrons for attending the Class 2A Sub-State Basketball Tournament last week. It was great to see the loyal Wichita County fans every night, even when our athletes weren't playing. A special thanks and kudos to Janee Porter for running a very smooth tourney! It makes my job easier as an administrator.

State assessment testing begins for the junior

Our school is earning money and you can help!

. It comes to us thanks to all of you currently participating in the Target Take Charge of Education[®] program. By simply shopping with your Target[®] Visa[®] or Target[®] Card, a percentage of the amount of each purchase you make is donated back to our school. If you're not already taking part, please consider doing so--grandparents, alumni, friends and neighbors can help, too. To participate or to see how much has been contributed towards our next check, please visit target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142.

Since the program began the high school and grade school have each had approximately \$2,000.00 donated. These funds have been used to purchase materials to enrich the education of USD 467 students

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.

high students after spring break and the high school's testing is set for the latter part of April. We ask parents to encourage their students to eat well and get plenty of rest during that time so they will be able to give their best performance on the assessments.

Parent-Teacher conferences will be held on Tuesday evening, March 23 and Thursday evening, March 25, with conferences both times from 4:30 to 8:30. Please be advised that some teachers will not be available on those evenings. Mrs. Gwen Wells, junior high math will be gone both times and Mr. Dale Chidester, junior and senior high social studies and high school Spanish, will not be available Tuesday. If you would like to discuss your child's grade with either of these teachers, please call the office at 375-2213 to contact them to set a time to meet.

*“Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success.”*

If there comes a little thaw,
Still the air is chill and raw,
Here and there a patch of snow,
Dirtier than the ground below,
Dribbles down a marshy flood;
Ankle-deep you stick in mud
In the meadows while you sing,
"This is Spring."

USD 467

**“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!!!!