

Daw Prints

Union R-XI School District

District Goals 2006-2007

Goals and Measurable Objectives

Goal 1: Improve student academic achievement results each year.

Objective 1: Student achievement scores will increase by three percentage points each year until the 85th percentile is reached in language arts, math, science and social studies.

Objective 2: The district will reduce the number of students reading below more than one grade level by five percent by the end of each school year.

Objective 3: The district will improve MAP scores by increasing the number of scores in the Proficient and Advanced levels by five percent in each subject and grade level.

Objective 4: The district will reach and maintain composite scores that are at or above the state and national average on the ACT.

Goal 2: Improve/maintain communication, trust and climate throughout the district and community.

Objective 1: The district will increase the perception, trust, communication, and climate by five percent as indicated by staff, students, parents and patrons on district climate survey given each year.

Objective 2: Schools will develop and implement school improvement plans based on CSIP goals for each building.

Goal 3: Improve student attendance.

Objective 1: The district will improve/maintain K-6 attendance to/at 96%, 7-8 attendance to/at 94%, and 9-12 attendance to/at 93.5%.

Objective 2: The district will increase the graduation rate by .5% each year until 97% or more is reached and maintained on an annual basis.

Objective 3: The district will decrease the number of tardies and early pick-up to improve hourly attendance by 1%.

Goal 4: Increase the effective use of technology in the classroom.

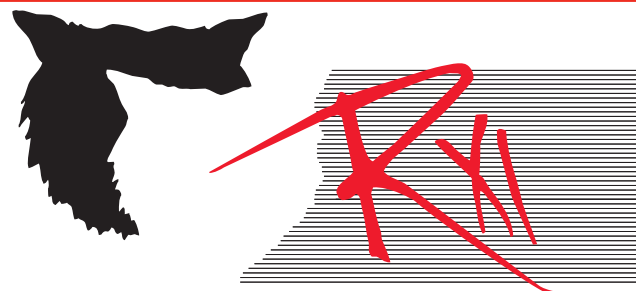
Objective 1: The district will increase classroom instructional technology by 15% district-wide as measured on pre- and post-surveys.

Objective 2: The district will increase technology updates to computer applications and laboratory equipment as suggested in the district technology plan.

Two New School Phases – Designed to Help Us Help Students

Response to Intervention (RTI) is a data driven approach to identify and assist students who are not making satisfactory progress within the regular education program. It is based on a problem solving and mastery of content approach that provides a clear basis for determining if a student needs special education. Resources within the regular education program are directed toward those students who are not making satisfactory progress.

CARE teams (school-based problem solving teams) consisting of teachers, school counselor(s), school administrator, special education teacher, and school psychological examiners (standing members) are closely involved in analyzing the specific educational issues of students having difficulty, determining / designing possible short-term interventions, monitoring the implementation of these interventions, and evaluating their success. Students who do not respond sufficiently to these interventions may need to be considered for special education services.



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Union R-XI School District Mission

The mission of the Union R-XI School District is to create a safe, drug-free, student-centered system with parental involvement, responsive to community and family needs; where all students are personally responsible, challenged and motivated, given time to imagine and create, and offered a global, current curriculum with educational, technical, economic, and health skills necessary to function successfully in society; where all faculty and staff are excellent, well-rewarded, and work successfully, individually and in teams, for the benefit of students and themselves; and where leadership and management of the system is influenced by those who participate.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Union R-XI School District is to provide an excellent education to all of our students by setting high standards in achievement, providing excellent faculty and staff, promoting community support, and providing appropriate technology.

Vision

The Vision of the Union R-XI School District includes safe and secure facilities conducive for learning and appropriate to house quality programs and necessary services for learners from pre-kindergarten to graduation. The district will provide an environment that meets the diverse learning needs of all learners. The district will operate in an appropriately disciplined atmosphere, free of violence, drugs and alcohol, and the district will strive to promote an atmosphere of mutual respect between the learner and teacher. Learners will receive a strong foundation in the "basics" needed currently and for the future. Well-trained teachers will use innovative teaching practices with proven instructional methodology and assessment. All learners will have access to relevant technological tools and resources to support learning. Life-long learning will be fostered as students learn to apply their knowledge and demonstrate effective skills in communication and problem solving in order to succeed as productive citizens in an ever-changing world.

Union R-XI Board of Education

- Mr. Dan Hall President
- Ms. Valorie Steinbeck Vice-President
- Ms. Traci Canby Board Member
- Mr. Steve Coble Board Member
- Ms. Pam Janssen Board Member
- Dr. Ron Sohn Board Member
- Mr. Tom Stahlman Board Member

Union R-XI Administration

- Dr. VeAnn Tilson Superintendent
- Dr. Jennifer Powers Assistant Superintendent
- Ms. Shirley Dintelman Assistant Superintendent
- Mr. Jeff Van Zee Director of Facilities
- Mr. Dennis Lottmann High School Principal
- Mr. David Eads High School Assistant Principal/Activities Director
- Ms. Amy Carlson High School Assistant Principal
- Mr. Nathan Bailey Middle School Principal
- Ms. Kim Hunter Assistant Middle School Principal
- Mr. Aaron Jones Clark-Vitt Elementary Principal
- Ms. Meg Chapman Assistant Clark-Vitt Principal/Curriculum
- Mr. Aaron Wills Beaufort Elementary Principal
- Ms. Karen Tucker Central Elementary Principal
- Ms. Jennifer Meyer Central Elementary Assistant Principal
- Ms. Julie Price Secretary to the Superintendent/Board
- Ms. Connie Rinne Bookkeeper
- Ms. Rhonda Witte Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent
- Ms. Rita Greenwood Assistant Bookkeeper
- Ms. Lisa Delmain Secretary to the Superintendent
- Ms. Lisa Light Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent

Phone Numbers

- Superintendent's Office 636.583.8626
- Union High School 636.583.2513
- Union Middle School 636.583-5855
- Clark-Vitt Elementary 636.583.6997
- Beaufort Elementary 573.484.3221/636.583.7744
- Central Elementary 636.583.3152
- Bus Garage 636.584.7171
- Food Service Dept. 636.583.5840
- Maintenance Dept. 636.583.2432
- Custodial Dept. 636-583-5855
- Support Services
- Resource Center (SSRC) 636.584.0157
- Technology Department 636.583.4440

A Message From the Superintendent



Dear Patrons,
The first quarter of the 2006-07 year is behind us and I would like to update you on the year. We are off to a great start!

Academics – In September the District received test scores from the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) given last spring. Overall we were pleased with the results. District-wide we were Proficient or Advanced in all areas tested. This was the first year that all students third grade through eighth grade were tested in Communication Arts and Math. Test scores from spring 2006 will provide the District with data to determine student progress from year to year and will also be used to assess programs. This year, many new programs have been put in place K-12 to improve academics district-wide.

Transportation – We had a great start

this fall. Students are getting home sooner and transportation concerns have been at a minimum. We appreciate the understanding and patience of our parents as we work through the challenges of District-owned transportation.

Construction – We're right on schedule with the new gym. The projected finish date is December 2007. We will be able to play most, if not all, of the 2007-08 basketball season in the new facility. Union R-XI has already been approved to host the 2007-08 Districts for basketball. This will be the first time in many years that we have been able to be the host school. If you have not driven down Independence Drive to view the construction site, please do so someday. You'll be amazed.

Fall Sports – Our fall season has been really exciting. It's nice to see so much "Wildcat Pride". The football team currently has a record of 10-0 overall and are undefeated in conference play. The team will advance to Sec-

tionals on November 8. Our softball team had an overall record of 9-6 and finished second in the conference. Volleyball tied for third in the conference and cross country runner Taylor Arrington finished first at the conference meet. Soccer finished with a 1-5 in conference play. We're very proud of our kids!

As always, I would like to thank the Union community for supporting your local school district. This is a great place to live and work.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

Dr. VeAnn Tilson



Union R-XI School District

POLICY ONLINE

SURVEYING, ANALYZING OR EVALUATING STUDENTS

Inspection

Any parent may inspect, upon request, any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum and all instructional materials, including teachers' manuals, films, tapes or other supplementary material, that will be used in connection with any survey, analysis or evaluation as part of any applicable program. Further, a parent may inspect, upon request, a survey created by a third party before the survey is administered or distributed by a school to a student. The term "instructional material" does not include academic tests or academic assessments.

In general, the district will not collect, disclose or use personal student information for the purpose of marketing or selling that information or otherwise providing the information to others for that purpose. In the rare case where the district may collect information from students for the purpose of marketing or selling that information, parents may inspect any instrument used before the instrument is administered or distributed to a student, upon request and in accordance with Board policy.

Consent Required

In accordance with law, no student, as part of any program wholly or partially funded by the U.S. Department of Education, shall be required to submit to a survey, analysis or evaluation (hereafter referred to as "protected information survey") that reveals any of the following information without written consent of a parent:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent.
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family.
3. Sexual behavior or attitudes.
4. Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior.
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships.
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians and ministers.
7. Religious practices, affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent.
8. Income other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program.

Notice and Opportunity to Opt Out

In accordance with law, parents will receive prior notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:

1. Any other protected information survey, as defined above, regardless of the funding source.
2. Any nonemergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law, except for hearing, vision or scoliosis screenings.
3. Activities involving the collection, disclosure or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing, selling or otherwise distributing information to others

The district will directly notify parents at the beginning of the school year of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when the above-listed activities will occur or are expected to be scheduled.

Notification of Policy and Privacy

In accordance with law, parents will be directly notified of this policy at least annually at the beginning of the school year and within a reasonable period of time after any substantive change in the policy.

The district will take measures to protect the identification and privacy of the students participating in a protected information survey, regardless of the source of funding. These measures may include limiting access to the completed surveys and the survey results as allowed by law. All student educational records will be protected in accordance with law and Board policy JO.

The provisions of this policy applicable to parents will transfer to a student who is 18 years old or emancipated.

Note: The reader is encouraged to check the index located at the beginning of this section for other pertinent policies and to review administrative procedures and/or forms for related information.

Adopted: 11/1987

Revised: 08/20/2003; 08/16/2006

Cross Refs: IGBA, Programs for Students with Disabilities
IGBC, Parent/Family Involvement in Instructional and Other Programs
KI, Public Solicitation/Advertising in District Facilities

Legal Refs: §§ 610.010 - .028, RSMo.
Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, 20 U.S.C. § 1232

Union R-XI School District, Union, Missouri

[Link to Missouri Statutes](#)

[Link to Missouri Regulations](#)

Union High School Student Council

Student Council has had a very successful start to the year. This fall, Student Council was notified that we were selected to receive the National Gold Council of Excellence award from the National Association of Student Councils. Because of activities that were submitted in our application, we were also featured in the Leadership magazine for our tailgating program that Student Council sponsors during Homecoming. Union High School Student Council is one of only 77 schools in the nation to receive this award.

We would like to thank everyone in the district – students, staff, and community – for the outstanding Homecoming week we recently had. It takes everyone to have a successful event and we were really proud of all the activities throughout the week. Each year the community comes out to support our students and this year was no exception. Thank you to everyone who donated their time, materials, cars, patience, etc. We could not have done it without all of you.

Union High School Student Council is one of only 77 schools in the nation to receive this award.



Student Council Officers for 2006-2007
 Back row, left to right: Krystin Lakebrink – Historian; Dana Graham – President; Stacy Doerr – Vice President.
 Front row, left to right: Amanda Iler – Secretary; Erika Johnson – Treasurer.

Union High School Presents "Noises Off"

Union High School is proud to present the fall 2006 production of "Noises Off," a play in three acts by Michael Frayn. The show is scheduled to run November 16, 17, and 18, at 7 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center.

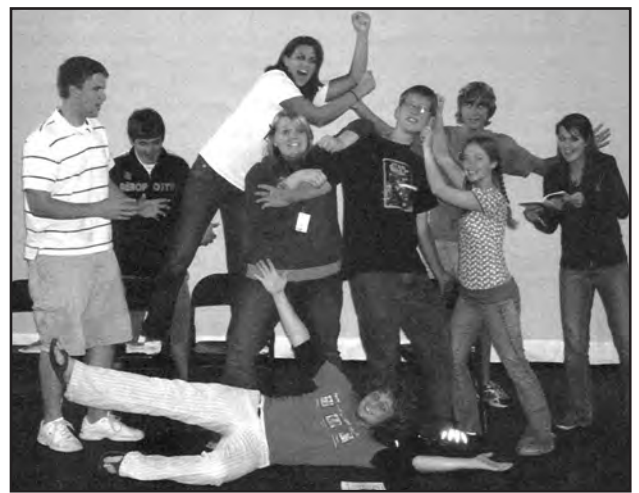
The plot of "Noises Off" concerns a British acting company presenting the play "Nothing On," possibly titled for the lack of plot. Expect lots of doors slamming, confusions, and of course, plates of sardines. The curtain comes up for Act One and Dottly Otley takes the stage. We see what we believe is the beginning of a traditional British farce, until a voice bellows out for the back of the house, yelling at the actress onstage for making the same mistake she has been making all along. What then ensues are a series of arguments about sardines and newspapers with other actors coming on offering their two cents. We discover that the voice belongs to the frustrated director, Lloyd Dallas, angry that an audience will see this play in less than 24 hours, and they just have started on their only technical/dress rehearsal.

What is interesting about "Noises Off" is that you get to see the same play three times but never in exactly the same manner. The set rotates at the first intermission and Act Two shows the play from backstage. Now running for close to a month, the play has not seemed to have gotten any better, but the relationships between the cast members have gotten worse. Love triangles and hidden items become the central point of these actors' lives, and the play takes a back seat. The questions about the actors – who's in love with whom, who doesn't know what, why is everyone angry – are every bit as deep (and irrelevant) as the questions about the characters they portray.

When the set rotates once more, we see the play again from the audience's point of view, again less than one month after Act Two, but now the offstage problems are now showing onstage. The trials and tribulations, physical and verbal battles are now not just behind the flats, they take the place of the dialogue, and the already thin plot of "Nothing On" disappears.

Cathy Kapuscia is the director of the play and has been working hard preparing the show, along with the numerous crew members and the cast – Meryl Brune, Frankie Bruning, Tommy Bruning, Zech Campbell, Robert Cole, John Eagan, Colin Grace, Jordan Grubbs, Brittany Kellerman, and Liz Stafford.

Tickets for the Union High School production of "Noises Off" are \$5 and will be available starting November 1 at the UHS Box Office located just outside the Fine Arts Center. Patrons are advised to buy reserved seating before the night of show.



Tailgating Pictures

Bounce House and Sno-Cone Machine donated by Air Adventures.
 Carnival games donated by Beaufort PTO and made by Chris Tanner.

"Doing Something Right"



Union High School Junior Roy Davis was "caught doing something right" during the Union vs. Priory game. Staff found him congratulating every player and coach on Priory's team, telling them to have a great season. Students like Roy make us proud to be a Union Wildcat.

*Dennis Lottmann
Officer Kevin Anderson
Ken Bone, Dominos Pizza*

There are still senior pictures that have been left at the High School. These pictures can be picked up at the front office Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

News from the UHS Library

This is a very exciting time for us. Construction of the new library at the high school is nearing completion. The new shelving and furnishings arrived October 9 and installation will begin later this week. We will begin moving into the new library the last week of October and hope to be completely moved and fully operational before Thanksgiving.

It is the mission of the Union High School Library Media Center "to provide an inviting, comfortable and versatile learning environment." It is with this mission in mind that we are forming a "Friends of the UHS Library" committee comprised of teacher, parent and community volunteers. Like the Performing Arts Center, the new library will need an additional funding source to help continue the progress we've made so far. If you are interested in being a member of this committee, or need further information please contact me at school: 636-583-2513 x1718 or tayje@union.k12.mo.us.

Thank you,
Jean Taylor, Librarian



Middle School

New Student Activity at Union Middle



TREND is an acronym for Turning Resources and Energy in New Directions, and the student chapters are affiliated with the National Council of Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NCADA). Five UMS students, sponsor Mrs. Tina Brueggemann, and School Resource Officer Kevin Anderson attended the NCADA Youth Leadership Conference in Chesterfield in August, then returned to Union and began the first-ever TREND club at UMS.

At a September Ribbon Leadership Conference the students attended sessions and learned about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. They then attended a leadership session during which they learned about characteristics of quality leadership. The students will be sharing this information at the regular monthly meetings, and will be heavily involved in planning activities for Red Ribbon Week 2006. These activities already include a Gym & Swim Lock-In at the Pointe at Ballwin Commons on October 21, and a big skating party at Skaterz on October 26.

TREND leaders were recently privileged to attend the presentation of federal funds to combat drug use on a county-wide level at a special ceremony at the new Franklin County administration building. There were elected representatives from both state and federal government. The students had an opportunity to hear about the seriousness of the meth problem in Franklin County and meet with government officials. John Walters, the Director of National Drug Control Policy and President Bush's "Drug Czar," was the key speaker. Senators Kit Bond and Jim Talent, Rep. Kenny Hulshof, and State Rep. Brian Nieves were also in attendance.



Front row: UMS students Kaitlyn Nobles, Natalie Randolph, Megan Herbst, Victoria Tappe, Katie Shults, Dylan Meyer and Sean Wood. Back row: U.S. Congressman Kenny Hulshof, U.S. Senator Jim Talent, U.S. Drug Czar John Walters and U.S. Senator Kit Bond.

Teacher Tutors Are Looking for Work

Two Union Middle School teachers and two permanent substitutes who work with the middle school program are seeking students who would like to improve their grades. That's right. In this program that began at the beginning of October, these teachers are in assigned classrooms from 3-4 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays and they want students who need homework help to take advantage of their offer.

If you know a middle school student who could benefit from some homework help, just call the middle school office at 583-5855.

Suspension Supervision Option

The new On-Campus Suspension (OCS) Program recently got underway at Union Middle School to provide a service to parents and an opportunity to middle school students who break the rules. The program provides supervision and partial credit to students who will make an adequate effort during short-term suspensions. Program guidelines prevent suspended students from participating in extra-curricular activities and other extra events, but allow them to be at school for a modified day to work on class work for credit. Middle school administrators make the offer available through parent notification.

22nd Annual Craft Show



The Union Middle School PTO will be hosting the

22nd Annual Craft Show

on Saturday, November 11

from 8:00 to 5:00

and on Sunday, November 12

from 10:00 to 3:00

More than 110 crafters will display their fine handicrafts including quilts, candles, candy, flower arrangements, and Christmas crafts of many kinds. For the first time in a long time, the PTO and teachers are in charge of the craft fair and all proceeds will stay in the middle school.

Volunteers are still needed. Please call the middle school office (583-5855) to volunteer. This would be a great time to start your Christmas shopping. Past years' profits have been used to replace the seating in the gym, buy computers and purchase whiteboards, among other things.

Please come out and help us make this another successful year!

PBS Comes to Central

For a number of years Central Elementary staff has discussed the possibility of taking on a school wide effort to promote positive expectations within the entire school including all staff members. Over the summer several staff members from Central Elementary attended a summer institute regarding Positive Behavior Support in schools. As a result of this training, a committee was formed with two coaches being selected to promote and organize a school wide program at Central Elementary. The **PBS** committee met several times throughout the summer and developed three building philosophies that fit into our Character Education Program and general mission of the school and district.

The 3 philosophies developed were for all students and staff to **BE SAFE, BE RESPECTFUL, and BE A LEARNER**. After the overall philosophies of the building were established, the committee looked at a number of settings in the school where the disciplines occurred most frequently. These areas were assessed and strategies were developed to ensure that all students and staff had an understanding from the first day of school regarding expectations for that setting whether it was classroom, cafeteria, hallways, bathrooms or playground.

PBS is a process for creating safer and more effective learning environment. The goal of **PBS** is to improve the communication between staff members, define a common language for behavioral expectations, provide the ability to teach, practice and support positive behavior for all students. **PBS** is not a "canned" program but can be tailored to the needs of the students and staff in the school. The procedures and processes are intended for **ALL** students, **ALL** staff in **ALL** settings.

On September 26 Central Elementary staff and **PBS** committee members presented a workshop to approximately 250 of our students/families. The evening started with a chili and hot dog dinner, which was provided by



the Central staff.

After dinner the children moved to the gym where they enjoyed carnival games, face painting and a clown making balloons. Chris Combs from South Central Regional Professional Development gave a power point presentation of the **PBS** statewide initiative. The Central staff provided explanations and demonstrations of the rules and expectations that have been adopted by Central Elementary. It was a fun and educational evening for all in attendance and we are looking forward to seeing how this will impact the success of our students at Central Elementary.



Fire Station Visit

The second grade classes at Central Elementary visited the Union Fire Station No. 2 on October 4. The students had an opportunity to walk through a fire-truck, view equipment, and use a fire hose. The visit was part of Fire Prevention Week. The fire fighters were on hand to teach fire prevention rules.



Rainforest

On October 27, the Rainforest came to visit Central Elementary. During the day students enjoyed an assembly where they saw a king snake, Macaws, and a monkey. The students were thrilled by the animals and learned all about how to save the rainforest. Students and parents were then invited to attend an evening show where several other rainforest animals made an appearance. The show was not only a learning experience for everyone, but a lot of fun, too.

New Computers

The kindergarten students at Central Elementary are taking full advantage of the new, state-of-the-art computers recently installed in the computer Lab. For the first time, the kindergartners are checking out the World Wide Web and visiting sites such as "Arthur" and "Sesame Street."

**home of the
union wildcats**

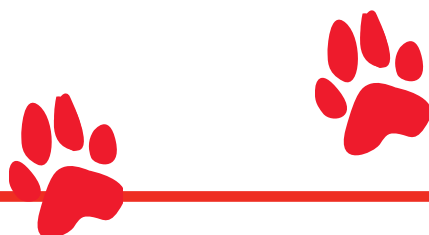
Outdoor Learning

Beaufort Elementary students recently participated in the "October Walk." Students walked from station to station in the Outdoor Classroom stopping at each for a few minutes to learn about different aspects of our natural world. Some of the lesson topics were: poison ivy, blooming trees, squirrel nesting, bats, sycamore trees, snakes, oaks, animal homes, prairie, wetlands, and more.



May I Help You?

On Tuesday, October 3, the Beaufort staff worked a double shift. After teaching school during the day they spent their evening working at Union McDonald's in the McTeacher Night program. Union McDonald's donated 25% of the revenues that evening back to Beaufort Elementary. A tremendous turnout resulted in \$1,008.75 back to the school.



Native Americans on Wheels

The Southeast Missouri State Explorer Van visited Beaufort Elementary in September. This interactive museum on wheels contained artifacts, videos, and computer software dealing with prehistoric Americans. Students in third through fifth grades visited the van and gave a one-word summary, "Cool!"

Join the cowgirls at
Beaufort Elementary for a
**Boot Scootin'
Scrap-A-Thon**

February 24, 2007
10:00am-10:00pm

All proceeds will benefit Beaufort Elementary's
reading programs.

Call the Beaufort School office at
573-484-3221 with questions or donations.

On-Line Homework Help

The following "tutors" offer mastery of every subject imaginable. They are available 24-hours-a day, 7 days a week, free of charge. Although nothing can beat the personal attention of a real tutor such as a teacher, parent or sibling, these online resources offer a quick, accessible backup for homework help.

Visit thebeehive.org for helpful tips on variety of subjects including math, science, English, social studies, foreign languages and fine arts. The site also offers SAT and ACT prep resources.

homeworkspot.com offers general homework tips such as how to take good notes and preparing for big exams, while also offering subject-specific help. Practice quizzes and worksheets are also available on this site.

Logging onto factmonster.com will offer readers homework help and facts on thousands of subjects. An online almanac, atlas, dictionary and encyclopedia are available.



Art Club

Art Club at Clark-Vitt is going well. The fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students meet once a month on separate nights. The first month we developed reading posters. This month Pumpkins Galore donated about 60 pumpkins for students to paint. After they finished painting students let them dry and then were able to take them home for the fall. It was great fun and Ms. Eichmeyer had a wonderful turnout.



Fourth Grade

Clark-Vitt fourth graders in Mrs. Dryer's class learn the basics of square dancing to prepare for activities to be held during their mid-October "Missouri Week."



Fifth Grade

"Go ahead and test me!" Fifth-grade students in Mrs. Meyer's class rehearse for their upcoming program, Education Rocks!, to be performed on October 19 in the new Union Fine Arts Center at Union High School.



Kindergarten

Kindergarten Enrollment '07-'08

Kindergarten enrollment for the 2007-2008 school year will be held at Central Elementary and Beaufort Elementary on Thursday, January 11, 2007. Beaufort Elementary School will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Central Elementary School will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Parents should enroll their child on that day or as soon after as possible.

Current Missouri law requires a child to be five years of age prior to August 1, 2007 to be enrolled in a public school kindergarten. There is no provision in the law for early entry.

Immunization records, Birth Certificate and Social Security card and proof of residency should be presented at enrollment. Adequate

immunization is required to attend kindergarten. We will be attempting to screen the vision and hearing of all children enrolled on January 11.

All children enrolled for kindergarten will be scheduled for screening, which will be conducted later in the spring. Parents will be able to sign up for a day and time when they enroll their child.

The District will offer both full and half-day sessions, provided the number of requests for either session can be accommodated by the district. When parents enroll their child they will be asked to state their preference. Priority will be given to those who enroll early.



The Busy School Year Has Started for the FFA



Erica Nowak is seen exploring the rumen of a fistulated cow during the Wurdack farm field day held on October 5. Union FFA members learned about the cow and its 4-chambered stomach and were then allowed to put their arm inside the cow to discover what the rumen actually feels like. The cow has a hole in its side so that researchers may access its rumen to complete nutrition research on the animal.

By: Union High School Reporter Leslie Machelett

As usual, the Union FFA Chapter has been hard at work. We have recently completed several big events, but so many more are just around the corner. In September, our Officer Team spent an evening in Hermann to compete in rituals and attend a Chapter Leadership Conference. Also in September the FFA put on its Annual Antique Tractor Pull, which was, as always, a success. In mid-September, we started our trap season. We have 32 members participating this year, which is great. We have competed in three meets so far, Hermann, Vienna, and Pacific.

On October 5, two of the FFA advisors and 91 freshman and sophomores spent the day at Wurdack Farms. At Wurdack Farms the students learn all kinds of things about agriculture. Two of their favorite demonstrations were the artificial insemination and the fistulated cow. This cow allows students to put their hand in the cow's stomach. Yes, I said putting their hand in the cow's stomach. They have a cow with a hole in its side so you can view its stomach to help you understand how a cow digests its food. After the guide explains it all to you, you then have the option to put on a plastic glove that reaches all the way up to your shoulder and stick your hand in. I did it my sophomore year and it was awesome!

October 6 was homecoming. The FFA worked hard for three days during and after school to create one masterpiece of a float. We are proud to say that our float took first place in the float contest. All the officers joined together to attend a workshop in Owensville on October 12 in which we absorbed more useful leadership skills and gained more ideas that will hopefully make our chapter an even greater success.

Yes we have completed a lot, but there is still so much work left to prepare for events that are still ahead of us. On October 25 about 34 members are packing their bags to set off on a fun-filled trip to Indianapolis for National Convention. At National Convention, we will meet lots of other FFA members from all over the United States, gain even more leadership skills, and attend sessions where different people and chapters are recognized for the achievements they have accomplished. Also coming up soon, we have speaking contests. During the speaking contests, members create a prepared speech and recite it in front of judges. They compete with other members from other chapters to be the best. Our biggest event in the month of November is Barnwarming. For those of you who don't know what Barnwarming is, it's kind of like a homecoming for FFA members. It's like homecoming in the sense that we have a king and queen, we decorate the shop, and we have a dance. It takes a lot of hard work but it is definitely worth every minute of it. Then to conclude the year of 2006, our last event is our Greenhand/Chapter Degree Ceremony. At this ceremony, first- and second-year members are recognized and receive awards and pins. Just because 2006 is done doesn't mean we are. The hard work will keep coming so we can keep succeeding and growing.



Union FFA members Brent Inman, Hannah Daniels, Mitchel Hults, Kyle Kassebaum, Matt Kassebaum, Laura Durbin and Crystal Deaton are busy working on the FFA Float for homecoming. The float entitled "Snow White and the 7 Farmers - Knock the Eagles Dopey" went on to win first place during the Homecoming parade on October 6.



Union FFA officers Crystal Deaton, Dawn Brune, Amy Naumann, Jason Loepker, Amber Muir, Leslie Machelett, Tina Borgmann, Hope Evans, Don Hagan, Andrew Kassebaum, and Hannah Daniels recently attended the FFA Area XIV Officer Training Workshop held at Owensville on October 12. Officers discussed their respective jobs, shared ideas and developed leadership strategies for the upcoming year.



Union FFA members root on their favorite Madagascar Hissing Cockroach at the cockroach races during the annual Wurdack Farm Field Day hosted by the University of Missouri. Students were introduced to a variety of insects both beneficial and detrimental to Agriculture.



Union FFA member James Durbin points out the effects of a simulated flood at the stream table during the Missouri Department of Conservation's demonstration at the University of Missouri Wurdack Farm Field Day. Students learned about the effects of treeless stream banks and channel diversion. Riparian areas were discussed along with how to solve current erosion problems.



Erosion control was discussed by the Missouri State Forestry Department at the University of Missouri Wurdack Farm Field Day. Foresters described how logging and farm roads can become unpassable if allowed to decline over the years. Several solutions were discussed and a sample erosion control device was demonstrated to the group of Union FFA members.

Officers Crystal Deaton, Dawn Brune, Amy Naumann, Jason Loepker, Amber Muir, Leslie Machelett, Tina Borgmann, Hope Evans, Don Hagan, Andrew Kassebaum, and Hannah Daniels are seen uniting in a circle of teamwork during one of the leadership activities.

Union FFA member Kevin Zeugin is seen demonstrating the Seat Belt Convincer, provided by the Missouri State Highway Patrol during the University of Missouri Wurdack Farm Field Day in Cook Station, Missouri. The Union Chapter took 91 first-year members to the agricultural field day on October 5.

