

Paw Prints

WINTER ISSUE 2009

HOME OF THE UNION WILDCATS

Union R-XI School District

*Awarded Distinction in Performance
by the Department of Education for the 6th year!!*

Teacher of the Year

Connie Wachter, a third-grade teacher at Beaufort Elementary, was selected Teacher of the Year by Washington Wal-Mart. The Beaufort School was recognized with a \$1,000 check and Connie received a \$100 gift card.



Union R-XI Board

The following is a list of candidates running for the two open seats on the Union R-XI Board. They will be on the election ballot April 7, 2009.

- Virgil L. Weideman**
- Ron Sohn**
- Gary H. Young**
- Sarah Frederick**
- Traci Canby**
- Jennifer Slay**
- John Pace**



Missouri State Thespian Conference

Jordan Grubbs, senior, received the first-place award for the fastest time in successfully assembling a sound system at the Missouri State Thespian Conference in January.



Parents

We value your input. We are working on the calendar for next year. Please e-mail your comments or suggestions to:

wildcat@union.k12.mo.us

or complete this online parent survey

union.k12.mo.us/survey

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

Union R-XI Administration

- Dr. VeAnn Tilson Superintendent
- Dr. Jennifer Hope Assistant Superintendent
- Ms. Shirley Dintelman Assistant Superintendent
- Mr. Jeff Van Zee Director of Facilities
- Mr. Dennis Lottmann High School Principal
- Mr. Chris Arand High School Assistant Principal/Activities Director
- Ms. Amy Carlson High School Assistant Principal
- Mr. Gary Menke Middle School Principal
- Mr. Nathan Bailey Assistant Middle School Principal
- Mr. Aaron Jones Clark-Vitt Elementary Principal
- Ms. Jenny Davis Clark-Vitt Elementary Assistant Principal/Curriculum
- Ms. Meg Vogel Beaufort Elementary Principal
- Dr. Deborah Stephens Central Elementary Principal
- Ms. Monica Assareh Central Elementary Assistant Principal
- Ms. Julie Price Secretary to the Superintendent/Board
- Ms. Lisa Delmain Secretary to the Superintendent
- Ms. Lauren Brake Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent
- Ms. Susan Timlin Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent
- Ms. Tameron Voss Secretary to the Director of Facilities
- Ms. Connie Rinne Bookkeeper
- Ms. Michelle Fink Bookkeeper
- Ms. Rita Greenwood Assistant Bookkeeper
- Ms. Rhonda Witte Benefits Secretary
- Ms. Jennifer Meyer Process Coordinator

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
- Resource Center 636.584.0157
- Technology Department 636.583.4440



Dear Patrons,

Great news! Our District was notified in December that we will once again be recognized for Distinction in Performance by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). This is the sixth year that our District has been awarded this honor. To receive this award the District must meet at least 13 out of 14 performance standards including all six of the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) areas. We not only met 13 standards, Union R-XI met all 14 standards! Our students, staff and parents are to be commended on achieving such distinction.

In recent months we have been asked how the financial crisis has affected our District. We certainly have not remained untouched by this and have seen substantial increases in many areas (i.e. fuel, food, energy, etc.). There will have to be some tough decisions made as we prepare for next year's budget. One thing is for certain...our Board of Education will keep the focus on kids and will work very hard to keep programs and people that directly affect the quality of education here at Union R-XI.

As always, thank you for your continued support. Let's work together to keep our District moving in the right direction in providing the best education possible to our 3,000+ students.

Sincerely,

Dr. VeAnn Tilson
Superintendent of Schools

Free Online Tutoring at Scenic Regional Library

Live Homework Help®, powered by Tutor.com, is an online tutoring service now available, free of charge, through Scenic Regional Library's Web site. It can be accessed seven days a week, from 2 pm to 12 midnight. Students can ask questions in an online chat environment by typing into a chat box. Or, they can draw their question on a "white board" that can be shared by both tutor and student. Students who are struggling in a class or those who need a little boost in their grades to make that "A", now have help. It serves students K-12, college introductory level and adult learners.

Imagine trying to help a student with a homework problem, but not being able to help because your expertise in that area is lacking. There are many parents who struggle when attempting to help their child with math problems, such as understanding fractions, working with percentages, or even solving for "x" in an algebra problem. Parents need not worry any longer. Live Homework Help® is here!

Beaufort Elementary's 3rd Annual Scrapbook Event

CROP AROUND THE WORLD IN 12 HOURS

**February 21, 2009,
10:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.**

\$35 before Feb. 13

\$40 after Feb. 14

\$20 for half day and students
(Space is limited so register early)

Full-day price includes lunch, dinner, contests, attendance prizes and classes taught by our vendors. When you are ready to crop call 636-583-7744 or 573-484-3221. You can also mail a check to Beaufort Elementary School, Attention: Scrapbook Committee, 3200 Highway 50, Beaufort, MO 63013.

Thank you participants and contributors in advance.

The donations go to promote literacy!



home of the union wildcats



Special Olympics

On January 10 the St. Louis Metro Area Special Olympics Basketball tournament was held for the third year in a row here in Union. Approximately 800 athletes came to compete with the help of their coaches and over 100 volunteers. Competitions were held at Union High School, Union Middle School, Clark-Vitt and Central Elementary as well as City Hall. The competition started around 8 am and ended at 6 pm. Lunch was served in the Union High School Cafeteria by the UHS student council. The high school also hosted a Victory Village where carnival-type games were played with prizes awarded. For further information about Special Olympics, please contact Connie Pado at Union High School.



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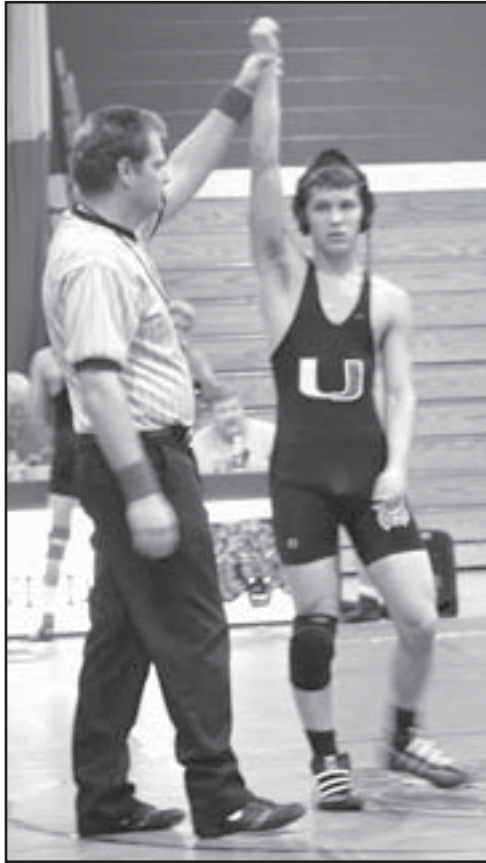
union wildcats



Wrestling

**MEMBERS OF THE WILDCAT
WRESTLING TEAM
LOOK FORWARD TO
DISTRICTS
IN FEBRUARY**

With the district wrestling tournament in St. Genevieve coming in February, the Union Wrestling Wildcats are kicking it in high gear and making finishing touches on areas needing improvement on the mat. All the members of the wrestling team are working hard, gaining experience, and paying their dues. The first-year wrestlers have shown much improvement from the beginning of the season and will continue to improve. They will compete in the district tournament, but will take this tournament as a learning experience more than anything else.



Josh Bridgman

Leaders of the Union Wildcat Wrestling Team are living up to their expectations this year. Six members of the wrestling team set their standards and goals high early in the year and now are fulfilling them. Senior Jimmy Barnhart (215 lbs) is having a great season this year. Jimmy is leading the team with the most wins and a record of 18-1. He has won the Fort Zumwalt North Tournament, Union Tournament and the Hillsboro Tournament. Senior Bobby Bridges (285 lbs) continues to wrestle well for the Wildcats. Bobby has won both the Union and Hillsboro tournament and has a record of 16-3. Steven Sachs (189 lbs) has just returned to the team after undergoing knee surgery earlier in the season. Steven is starting his return off well with a 2-0 record. He is working hard to get himself back into shape so he is able to compete and finish the season with a strong record for districts. Senior Drew Bromet (152 lbs) continues to work hard in practice and has made a commitment to improve to prepare for districts. Drew has a record of 9-9 and is getting better each meet. Junior Billy Bradley (145 lbs) is having an impressive season. Billy is 16-3 on the season and has wrestled well against good competition. Senior Josh Bridgman (140 lbs) has won the Union and Hillsboro Tournament as well. Josh is working on improving his intensity and has a record of 15-3. The district tournament is set for Feb 13 at St. Genevieve High School and the team is excited about wrestling a good tournament. The team expects to get some wrestlers through to state and compete well in the state wrestling tournament in Columbia. We invite the community to come and support these hard working young men through the rest of the wrestling season.



Jimmy Barnhart



From the Desk of the Athletic Director:



Winter sports are well under way and will be over before we know it. First of all, I would like to congratulate all of our fall sports teams and recognize those individuals that received awards:

Football: Season Record 11-1, Undefeated Four Rivers Conference Champs & District Champs.

All Conference: 17 different players made all-conference in 21 positions.

All District: Pat Leicht, Jordan Webb, Adam Amato, Isaac Purnell, Malcom Stanley, Colter Janssen, Pat Gerrein, Jared Cahill, Tyler Gaither, Adam Unnerstall, Steve Schaefer, Jimmy Barnhart, Bobby Vondera, John Mitchell and Brent Eckley, Coach of the Year.

All-State: 1st Team—Jordan Webb, Isaac Purnell, 2nd Team—Malcolm Stanley, and 3rd Team—Colter Janssen.

Softball: Season Record 19-5, 1st place Ft. Zumwalt North Tournament. 2nd Place Four Rivers Conference and Districts. Team GPA 3.4

All Conference 1st Team—Megan Wildhaber, Jeanne Tappe, and Brittany Mayfield. 2nd Team—Kris Stevens and Kelly Keeven.

All District: Megan Wildhaber, Jeanne Tappe, and Brittany Mayfield.

All Region: Megan Wildhaber and Brittany Mayfield.

Soccer: Season Record 14-8. Undefeated Four Rivers Conference Champs.

All Conference: Devin Arand, Cody Beck, Tyler Beck, Will Sammet, and Alec Wickey.

Cody Beck, Four Rivers Conference Player of the Year.



Volleyball: Season Record 3-23

All Conference: Honorable-Mention—Katie Lottmann



Cross Country:

All Conference: Karen Osuna, Tori Tappe, Emily Vie.

Again, congratulations to all of these athletes for their honors.

Now, back to the winter sports. Wrestling, boys and girls basketball are in the heart of their seasons. All three teams host an annual tournament at the high school. The wrestling tournament was held on Saturday, December 13, where 10 teams participated in the competition. The boys and girls basketball teams both host eight team tournaments each year. At the time of this writing, the girls tournament has just completed the first and second rounds and will finish on January, 17. The boys tournament will be held the week of January 26-31.

Union High School will again be the site of the Class 4 Boys and Girls Basketball District Championships. Districts will be held the week of February 23. Wrestling districts will be held at Ste. Genevieve High School on February 13 and 14. Good luck to all of our teams and individuals at Districts.

We have also been chosen to host a Class 5 Sectional Game on Wednesday, March 4. Game times are 6 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. In addition, this year we will be hosting a Class 2 Quarterfinal game on Saturday, March 14. Game times for the Quarterfinals are 1 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. It is quite an honor and privilege to host these games, and a chance to show-off our wonderful facilities that we have here at Union High School.

With the conclusion of winter sports comes the beginning of our spring sports. The first possible day of spring practice will be March 2. Spring sports offered at Union High School include baseball, boys and girls track, golf and girls soccer. Athletes are reminded that they must have a physical form on file with the office before they are allowed to practice. Physical forms are available in the main office.

If anyone ever has any questions or concerns, please contact Chris Arand at 636-583-2513, x1707.



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wildcats!

UMS News

The first semester has come and gone at UMS! We are very proud of the many accomplishments of our student body. UMS students, with the support of faculty sponsors, participated in concerts, athletic contests, club meetings and various service projects. Participation in such activities certainly aid in the overall development of young adolescents. Additionally, our students are doing very well academically, with 274 of them earning first semester honor roll status.

Parents are urged to contact UMS if they have concerns about their student's academic performance to date. Team teachers have devoted many hours in an effort to assist students improve their grades and their academic standing. This will be even more important for some individuals who may be affected by the school's retention policy. Please do not hesitate to contact UMS to discuss the various options provided by teachers to assist students. Those sessions include, tutoring, GRO, Last Chance Night, and Passing Points.

UMS students who had perfect GRO records during the second quarter were treated to "A Movie with the Principal." Our friends at the Great Eight Cinema hosted approximately 100 students who did not miss a homework assignment or receive a discipline referral during the entire second quarter. The kids enjoyed a morning showing of "Hotel For Dogs."

Map Testing Preperation

Believe it or not the middle school is making plans for Spring MAP testing already! As you know MAP represents those tests given to students in Missouri's public schools. The tests help to determine a student's level of proficiency in selected core academic subjects. The tentative testing schedule calls for MAP to begin on March 31 and run through April 17. Seventh-grade students will be tested in mathematics and communication arts while eighth-graders will be tested in those same subjects plus science.



It is always important for students taking high-stakes tests like the MAP to be in attendance, arrive on time, to eat well and gets lots of rest. Providing the best testing atmosphere possible will be our goal. Please join us in doing all that we can to help our students do well on these important assessments.

UMS TREND is in need of your gently used books!

We are collecting books to raise money to send students to the TREND conference August 6-8.

Students learn about the negative effects of drugs, and come back to teach their peers how to resist peer pressure and make healthy choices for their bodies.

Please drop books off at the middle school or any book barrel at Fricks or Finks.

 Your contribution is greatly appreciated. 

**Our book sale will be
April 18 at UMS from 10-2!**

home of the 
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wildcats 

Wildcat of the Week

One of the programs that has been initiated as a result of the new Team configuration at Union Middle School is the selection of two students per week for Wildcat of the Week (W.O.W) recognition. These students have shown the character traits of Wisdom, Integrity, Loyalty, Dependability, Compassion, Awareness, Tolerance and Success.



October W.O.W. students on the seventh- and eighth-grade Combined Team were: Maddy Bandowski, Eric Brown, Megan Clark, Jared Eissingner, Drew Kappleman, Devin Mainord, Alex Nelson and Demi Page. The seventh-grade Team W.O.W students were: Brent Macleay, Emily Tappe, Sophia Orozco, Ben Breuer, John Mueller, Emily King, Andrew Bondor and Jessica Jenkins. W.O.W. Students on the eighth-grade Team included: Kyle Baughman, Sophie Burton, Alex Gaebe, Jillian Johnston, Kelsey Kloepfel, Andrew Lenau, Dillen Myers and Chelsea Thornton.

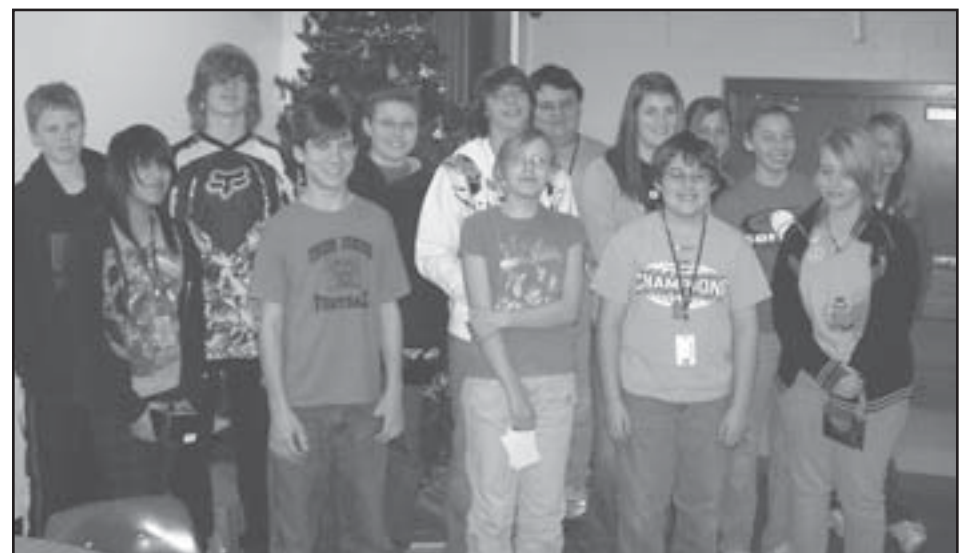
In a separate drawing eighth-grader Jillian Johnston and seventh-grader Andrew Bondor were chosen as the UMS Middle School Students of the Month for October.



November W.O.W. students on the seventh- and eighth-grade Combined Team were: Ryan Ware, Nora Becker, Kelly Porter, Joe Kassebaum, Katie Feth, Joe Smith, Devin Mainord and Maddy Bandowski.

The seventh-grade Team W.O.W students were: Jessica Saucier, Jacob Kreutz, Shaela Hinkle, Jonathan Strugari, Dakota Fritz and Ally Mohesky. W.O.W. Students on the eighth-grade Team included: Katrina Marshall, Jess Moon, Alex Gerlemann, Abbie Brack, Ian Kitcher and Christa Lenau.

In a separate drawing eighth-grader Ian Kitcher and seventh-grader Jessica Saucier were chosen as the UMS Middle School Students of the Month for November.



December W.O.W. students on the seventh- and eighth-grade Combined Team were: Ashton Dehn, Daniela Velazques, Zach Boyer, Cassie Tolson, Jesse Mohesky and Vicki Gumpenberger. The seventh-grade Team W.O.W students were: Zach Lanham, Kelsey Jobin, Kirsten Dierberg and Jared Birkmann. W.O.W. Students on the eighth-grade Team included: Elizabeth Brueggemann, Austin Westhoff, Rachell Bassett and Jacob Russell.

In a separate drawing eighth-grader Jacob Russell and seventh-grader Daniela Velazques were chosen as the UMS Middle School Students of the Month for December.



Beaufort Elementary

Looking ahead into 2009 reminds us of our vision, mission and objectives as a new calendar year begins. Yes, we are half way through the year with much to enjoy and experience in the second half of the 2008-2009 school year in our Beaufort family! As we look back we have worked hard following our curriculum in the major subject areas of Communication Arts (Reading, Writing and Speaking); Math, Science and Social Studies while enjoying the fine arts of music and art. Students continue to gain new skills in the library and computer lab during the week with all areas striving to achieve grade level expectancies. We make time for fun as you can see in our photos as we enjoy our family days at Beaufort in work and play. We will continue to put children first as student achievement is our primary focus. We are always striving to develop the areas of social and emotional development in our children as well! Thank you parents for your continued support and partnership with us to ensure each child progresses academically and socially.



Mrs. Vogel, Principal



Pen Pals

Third-grade Beaufort students from Mrs. Maune's class having fun writing to their third-grade Central pen pals from Mrs. Shatz's classroom.



home of the

union

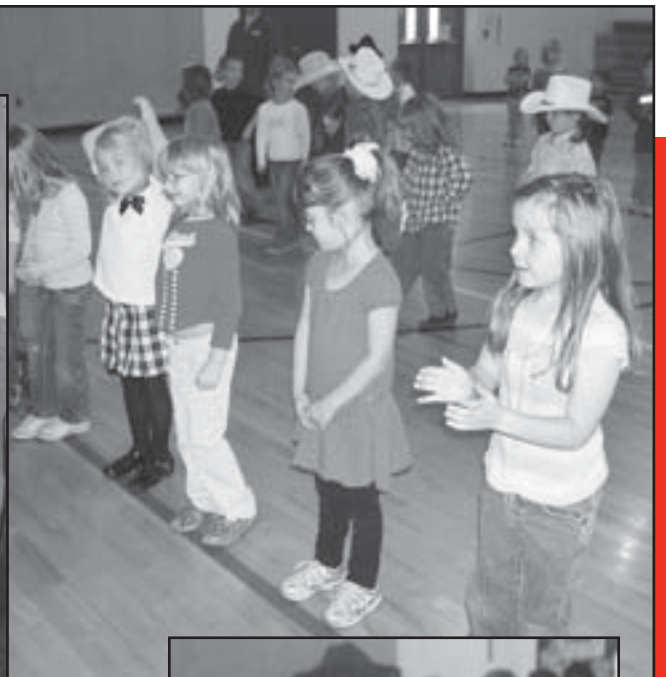
wildcats



Central Elementary



No Down Fun





Hollywood Day

Central Elementary Teachers went Hollywood for Homecoming with a RED CARPET EVENT. Teachers dressed as their favorite “star” (themselves). The Oscar winning teachers are: left to right: Michele Koelling, Adrienne Koester, Sharon Yancey, Nancy Schroeder, Sandi Wellman (Brittney), Sally Denbow, Cristine Metts, and Jackie Warren.



Union R-XI Foundation Grants

The Union R-XI Foundation and local businesses began a “Community Partners in Education” program in 2007-2008 to help fund teacher grants in grades kindergarten through high school. The educational Foundation presented twelve grants totaling \$5,680.00 to teachers which help support programs that are beyond the funding of the district. The Foundation and Community Partners raised money by hosting the annual Union R-XI Dinner Dance, silent auction and donations.

The Foundation-Community Grants were awarded to the following programs: Mobile Scientific Investigation Lab (grades 4-5-6) Clark Vitt, Common Sense Math DVD Program (grades 7-8) Middle School, Adjustable Wire Rack for books and resource materials (grade 4) Clark Vitt, Reading Recovery/Early Literacy Program (grades K-3) Central, Cooperative Learning-Kagan Structures – Beaufort, Freshman Orientation “The Right Start” – High School, Science materials (grade 5) Beaufort, Greater Introduction of the Holocaust (grade 8) Middle School, Gifted Program – field trips (grades 3-4-5-6) Central, Clark Vitt and Beaufort, LCD Projector for High School Spanish classroom, Rhythm instruments (grades K-3) Central and Early Literacy “leveled library” mobile cart (Kindergarten) Central.

“Community Partners” in 2007-2008 were: United Bank of Union, LJ Hart, LA Schaefer, Wm. B. Ittner, Livengood Transmission, Legend Bank, Sam Stausing Insurance, BOCO Electric, City of Union, SCI Engineering, Transfreight Logistics, Strubberg and Assoc., Region Welding, Union Missourian, Hall Brothers Lumber, Dickey Bub Farm and Home, Imos Pizza, Great 8 Cinema, Oasis Lanes, Curves of Union, Western Auto of Union, Purschke Oil, Franklin County Youth Fair, Platts Nursery, Schweissguth Bros., Barreth Ford, Jasper Door, Major Saver, National City Bank, Rainbow International, Planet Gymnastics, Union Knights of Columbus, Koelling Bricklaying, Lakebrinks, Hagie’s 19, Belvia’s Blooms, McDonalds, Fricks Market and Pepsi of New Haven.

Central Elementary News...

Central Elementary has been a busy, busy school in the past several weeks. We want to thank our awesome PTO for the wonderful support and projects they brought to our school – including the Giving Tree and the Holiday Boutique. Our students and teachers enjoyed participating in both!!

In December our second-graders gave a marvelous performance in their music program. Student art was also displayed for all to enjoy. It was a delight to see all of the family and community members joining us to support students and appreciate their hard work.

Central teachers had a great time providing “entertainment” for students – singing and performing skits before our winter vacation! Our students so enjoyed watching their teachers on stage!!!

January 7 started our second semester and provided new academic focus for students. Teachers are working very hard to prepare students for spring testing and on our building-wide focus on “writing.” As we move into spring, parents will hear more about our writing projects. Some grade levels will provide curriculum nights– inviting parents to join students here at Central to do practice writing activities and sample MAP questions.

January also brought new FUN to Central students! Our communities attended skating parties on the 8 and 15, and we enjoyed assemblies on pet care provided by Purina Farms.

Grade cards went home on January 9. At this time the third quarter is scheduled to end on March 12. This school year is flying– and with this, we want to wish all families a “Happy New Year” and invite you to visit us anytime at Central Elementary.

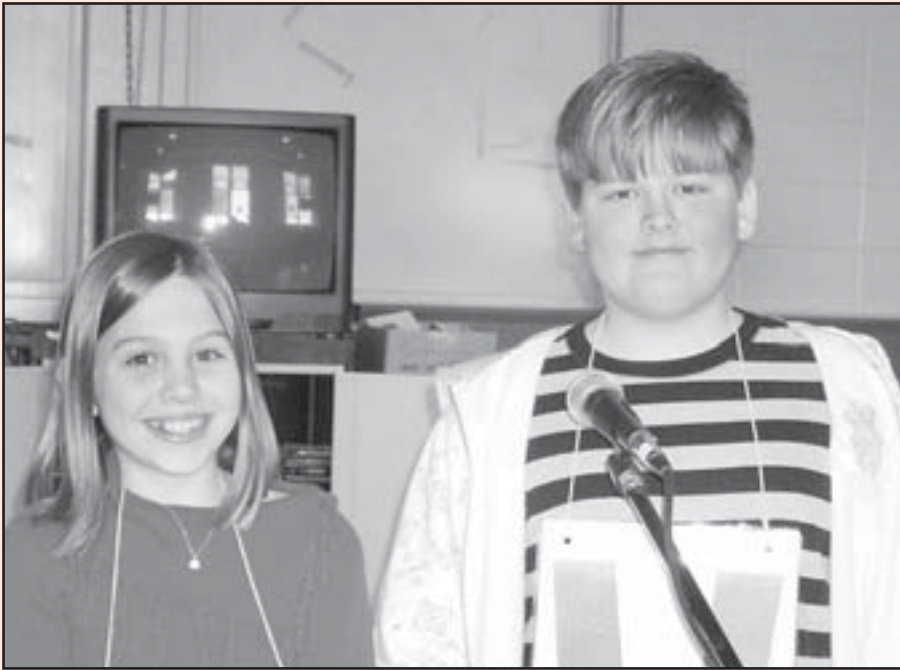


A Foot is a Foot

Mrs. Schroeder’s kindergarten class learned that a foot is not a “foot”. Young children compare measurement by comparing objects side by side. As they work with length, they learn to compare objects by applying words such as tall, taller, tallest and short, shorter, shortest. Children then link a number with a standard unit of measure using measurement instruments such as a ruler. The class read the story How Big is a Foot? by Rolf Myller. The story teaches the children that a “king’s foot” (12”) is not the same size as his royal apprentice’s foot. The apprentice makes a bed for the queen which is 3 feet by 6 feet with his foot measurement. But the bed does not fit until they figure out a king’s foot is not the same as the apprentice. So, the apprentice remakes the bed, 3 king’s feet by 6 king’s feet and the queen has a bed that fits. The class made a bed using their foot patterns and then made a bed the size of King Colter’s foot (12”), while learning to use a ruler and inches.




Mrs. Philipp’s Second-Grade Class



Spelling Bee Co-Champions



 October Teacher of the Month

 *Clark-Vitt News....* 

Dear Patrons,

I wanted to update you on several things happening at Clark-Vitt. Thanks to your generosity and help we were able to raise \$4,712.00 during the annual cookie dough sale. The money raised will be used for student rewards and incentives. One of the first things we are doing is celebrating the 221 students that made honor roll with our quarterly honor roll barbecue.

Clark-Vitt held its annual Spelling Bee on January 15. We were lucky enough this year to have co-champions. Fifth-grader Haylee Maxwell and sixth-grader Kenneth Galbreath lead the pack of several strong contestants. Great job guys!

Our numbers were back up for our monthly Skaterz party. 127 kids and parents braved the cold temperatures and came out to Skaterz on the 15th of January. If you have not had the opportunity to come out with us, we have a lot of fun in a safe, friendly environment. Our next skating party is scheduled for Feb. 19 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

As everyone knows, attendance is a very important part of our students' education. We had 123 students during second quarter that were able to dodge the sick bug and had perfect attendance. We also have 77 students that have been here every hour of every day for the whole year!!!

Aaron Jones
Principal
Clark-Vitt Elementary



October Students of the Month 



 November Support Staff of the Month



2009 Spelling Bee Contestants



November Students of the Month 