

Paw Prints

WINTER ISSUE 2010

HOME OF THE UNION WILDCATS

Union R-XI School District Awarded Distinction in Performance by the Department of Education for the 7th year!



*Introducing Mr. Steve Bryant,
New Superintendent to the District*

On Wednesday, January 13, the district held a tea to introduce the new superintendent, Mr. Steve Bryant, to the District. Mr. Bryant will begin his employment on July 1, 2010. He has been at Salem for 8 years, 3 years as assistant superintendent, and is in his fifth year as superintendent. Prior to Salem, Mr. Bryant was the Director of Career and Technical Education at West Plains for 9 years and 10 years as an Agriscience teacher.



Union R-XI School Board

The following is a list of candidates running for the two open seats on the School Board. They will be on the election ballot April 6, 2010.

Sarah Frederick

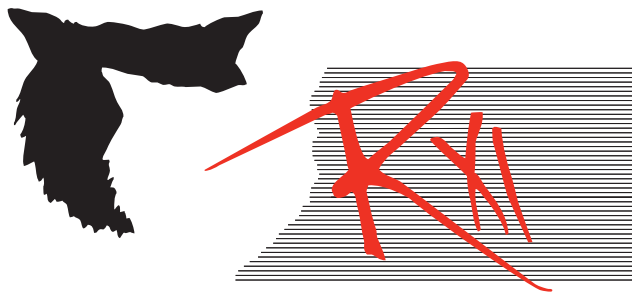
Keith Ragsdale

Gary Banderman

John Ray

James Borgmann

Jennifer Slay



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Parents

It's that time of year again for the parent climate survey. Parents may take the survey online at <http://union.k12.mo.us/survey/parentclimate> If you need technical support please call 636-583-4440.

Parent Volunteers

Just a reminder: If you plan on going on field trips this spring, check with your school's office on your volunteer status. It can take up to 3-4 weeks for background checks to be processed.

Attention Parents:

Your input is requested for the 2010-11 school calendar. Please email your suggestions to wildcat@union.k12.mo.us by February 12.

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. Teresa Connelly	Board Member
Mr. Dan Hall	Board Member
Ms. Pam Janssen	Board Member
Dr. Ron Sohn	Board Member
Mr. Gary Young	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. Meg Vogel	Beaufort Elementary Principal
Dr. Deborah Stephens	Central Elementary Principal
Ms. Monica Assareh	Central Elementary Assistant Principal
Ms. Jenny Davis	Curriculum Assessment Instructor
Ms. Jennifer Meyer	Process Coordinator
Ms. Lauren Brake	Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Lisa Delmain	Secretary to the Superintendent
Ms. Michelle Fink	Bookkeeper
Ms. Rita Greenwood	Accounts Payable
Ms. Julie Price	Secretary to the Superintendent/Board
Ms. Connie Rinne	Bookkeeper
Ms. Susan Timlin	Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Tameron Voss	Secretary to the Director of Facilities
Ms. Rhonda Witte	Benefits Secretary

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
Food Service Dept.	636.583.5840
Maintenance Dept.	636.583.2432
Resource Center	636.584.0157
Technology Department	636.583.4440
Early Childhood	636.583.1202



Patrons,

On February 1 the Board of Education held its annual Budget Priority Meeting. Every year it gets harder and harder to project a budget in February due to all the unknowns in school finance. This year is no different.

Here is what we do know:

*The state's budget outlook is grim. The most recent figures show a 6.2 percent decrease over what was first anticipated.

*The state is projecting 6.8 billion in General Revenue in 2009-10

*The state is projecting 7.2 billion in General Revenue in 2010-11

*This is approx. 1 billion short from what is needed to fund state government.

*Much of the Federal Stabilization Funds were used to "plug the gap" in the 2009-10 state budget year. Union R-XI received approx. 1.2 million dollars (approx. 15 percent) in Stabilization Funds through the Foundation Formula. This is not additional money. The state foundation formula was subsidized this year by federal monies.

*The gaming revenue is projected to be 60-80 million short this budget year.

*DESE's request for an additional 43 million for 2009-10 to fund the current formula was not approved and we are expecting some cuts to result from that shortfall and possibly a proration of the foundation formula.

Now for the optimistic view the Governor pledged support of K-12 education in the State of the State Address on January 20. He recommended continuation of Career Ladder Program in the coming year (FY11) and stated that K-12 education was taken off the table when discussing potential cuts to the state budget. But we have 3 1/2 months to see how all this plays out in the Legislature.

His recommendation of an additional 18 million in the formula will only fund approx. 1/5 of what it would cost to continue the phase in of the formula. We are currently in the fourth year of a seven-year phase in process.

What does this mean for Union R-XI? We know that we were able to save approx. \$300,000 in the 2010-11 budget with our Early Separation Agreement. We had 18 certified staff and 7 support staff choose to take advantage of the package. Currently, we do not plan to post all of those positions for replacement saving another \$500,000. Yes, some will be replaced but not all. We will wait to make final decisions about staffing until much later in the spring when the state budget is finalized. At this time I do not plan to recommend further cuts in staff.

Times are tough throughout the United States and Missouri has fared far better than most states with education cuts. We've weathered many storms in the past and we'll also come through this one.

We have a dedicated staff and a supportive community. We are very fortunate!

Sincerely,

Dr. VeAnn Tilson
Superintendent of Schools

Curriculum/Collaboration Day a Success!

Friday, January 15 Union R-XI held a Curriculum and Collaboration Day. During the morning sessions, elementary teachers at the same grade level worked together analyzing student data and sharing effective teaching strategies. The afternoon consisted of break-out training sessions in several areas including: Cooperative Learning, Depth of Knowledge, Moodle, Quia, Clickers, and several other technology topics. Middle and high school teachers attended break-out sessions in the morning that consisted of the same topics listed above; they were also able to meet with their department teams to analyze student data and share effective teaching strategies. Some district teachers took the opportunity to observe successful teachers in other districts. Feedback from the teachers, principals and presenters was very positive.

The Curriculum Instruction and Assessment Department would like to thank several groups that helped make our Curriculum Collaboration Day a success. First, thanks to all Union teachers who go the distance for kids! Also, Union R-XI teachers who prepared presentations to share with district teachers: Leslie Lause, Jeanne Gravatt, Kurt Pollman, Tracie Stori, Jessica Meyer, Kendra Fennessey, Ellen Burton and Linda Clark. Also, a big thanks to Matt Jones and the technology department for having the computer labs ready for our training. In addition to our district help, John Edgar and Michelle Smith from the Rolla RPDC, Laura Grayson former STARR teacher, and Doug Taylor with Taylor Educational Solutions. Finally, a huge thank you to our group leaders (names listed below) who regularly help with the organization and communication within their teams. The Curriculum Day was successful and many teachers received training in new areas, especially technology.

Group Leaders

Stacy Titter, Ellen Burton, Megan Gerling, Judy Dunne, Sue Wilkinson, Sonya Bruns, Denise Bunch, Connie Wachter, Robyn Boland, Denise Gregor, Carol Kamper, Mark Spann, Mary Anne Straatmann, Katrina Oberlies, Shannon Carico, Dawnette Whiskur, Diane Bruns, Colin Flynn, Leslie Lause, Laura Davidson, Bob Dunn, Nancy Johnston, Josh Hall, Rob Rogers, Jolene Smith, Sheila Baer, Danielle Blair, Kurt Pollman, Janis Boruk, and Jodi Fortner.

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Live Online Homework Help with educators

<http://www.scenicregional.org/tutor.shtml>

Available through Scenic Regional Library: all you need is a library card!

Helpful Web Sites by Content Area

Science Helps:

Interactive Periodic Table: <http://www.infoplease.com/periodictable.php>
 The chemistry lab: <http://www.infoplease.com/chemistry/>
 Franklin's forecast: <http://www.fi.edu/weather/>
 General chemistry Online: <http://antoine.frostburg.edu/chem/senese/101/index.shtml>
 How Stuff Works: <http://www.howstuffworks.com/>
 Science is Fun: <http://scifun.chem.wisc.edu/>
 Science News for Kids: <http://www.sciencenewsforkids.org/>
 The Space Place for kids: <http://spaceplace.jpl.nasa.gov/en/kids/index.shtml>
 Cool science for curious kids <http://www.hhmi.org/coolscience/>
 Planet Impact <http://amazing-space.stsci.edu/resources/explorations/impact/home.html>
 Solar system trading cards <http://amazing-space.stsci.edu/resources/explorations/trading/directions.html>
<http://www.sciencemonster.com/> (information about our solar system. Students can take a star tour, see how gravity and inertia work, and play a fun lunar landing game. Grades 2-5)
<http://fourmilab.ch/earthview/vplanet.html> (View a map of the Earth showing the actual day and night regions at this moment. You can also view it as currently seen from the Sun, Moon, orbiting satellite, or from above a variety of cities. Grades 3+)
 the Atoms family: <http://www.miamisci.org/af/sln/> (Explore educational activities about energy concepts, the power of the sun, energy conservation, energy transformation, electricity and fossil fuels being presented by famous gothic horror characters.)
 The Virtual Body: <http://www.medtropolis.com/VBody.asp>

Math Helps:

Math flash cards: <http://www.infoplease.com/math/flashcards.html>
 A+Math: <http://www.aplusmath.com/hh/index.html>
 Math Homework Helper: http://school.discoveryeducation.com/homeworkhelp/math/math_homework_help.html
<http://ts.nist.gov/WeightsAndMeasures/Metric/conv.cfm> (Metric Conversion Chart)
<http://www.quickmath.com/index.php> (Quick Math) QuickMath is an automated service for answering common math problems over the internet. Think of it as an online calculator that solves equations and does all sorts of algebra and calculus problems - instantly and automatically!
 WebMath: <http://www.webmath.com/> (the goal of this website is to provide you with an instant solution to the particular math problem you're having trouble solving.)

Research Skills:

<http://www.infoplease.com/homework/researchskills1.html>
<http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/research/skill1.htm> (7 Steps of the Research Process)
<http://www.factmonster.com/> (Fact Monster for kids)
<http://www.kidsclick.org/> (web search for kids by librarians)
 Writing skills:
<http://www.infoplease.com/homework/writingskills1.html>
<http://www.ccc.commnet.edu/mla/index.shtml> (MLA writing help)
<http://www.onelook.com/> (Dictionary)
<http://thesaurus.reference.com/>
http://www.writingfun.com/using_text_organizers_to_help_students_with_the_writing_process

Study Skills:

<http://www.studygs.net/> (Study Skills and Strategies)

Social Studies:

<http://www.infoplease.com/homework/hwsocstudies.html>
 National Geography for Kids: <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>
 State Master: <http://www.statemaster.com/index.php> (statistical database which allows you to research and compare a multitude of different data on US states)
<http://www.geosense.net/> (Test your knowledge of world geography)
 Don't Gross out the world: <http://www.fekids.com/img/kln/flash/DontGrossOutTheWorld.swf>
<http://www.mrnussbaum.com/circumcode.htm> (interactive maps)
 Growth of a nation interactive 1789-1959 <http://www.animatedatlas.com/movie.html>
 Place the State interactive: http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/states_experiment_drag-drop_Intermed_State15s_500.html
 Flags of the world: <http://www.explore-books.com/flags/flags.html#>
<http://www.earlyamerica.com/series.html> Famous Moments in Early American History Short Films of Noteworthy Events

Road to the Revolution: http://www.pbs.org/ktca/liberty/road_q1.html
 Hisistory: <http://www.infoplease.com/homework/hwhistory.htm>
 Geography: <http://www.infoplease.com/homework/hwgeography.html>

Com. Arts:

<http://www.infoplease.com/homework/hwenglish.html>
 Common Errors in English usage: <http://www.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/errors.html>
 Interactive Reading Games: <http://www.roythezebra.com/reading-games-word-level.html>
 Stories on line: <http://www.storylineonline.net/>
 Bembo's Zoo picture book interactive (pre-k -1st grade) <http://www.bemboszoo.com/>
 Building language through literacy: <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bll/index.htm>
 Learn to read interactive site through Starfall: <http://www.starfall.com/>
 Make a word interactive: <http://www.inklesstales.com/games/makeaword/index.shtml>
 Road hog spelling (Form 3 letter words. Grades K-2) http://www.randomhouse.com/golden/funfactory/fun_factory_game.php?game=roadhog
 Primary games <http://www.primarygames.com/reading.htm>
 Word Magnets interactive <http://www.storyit.com/magnets/wmagnets.htm> (Create sentences using phonics & sight words)
 Synonyms and antonyms: <http://www.fen.com/studentactivities/sameDiff/samediff.html>
 Word Ahead vocabulary videos: <http://www.wordahead.com/> (High school vocabulary videos, includes SAT vocabulary)
 Reading games for young kids <http://resources.kaboose.com/games/read1.html>
 Reading games for kids over 6 <http://resources.kaboose.com/games/read2.html>
 Spin and Spell <http://www.spinandspell.com/> (Choose a picture and spell the word. Grades 1-3)
 Spelling Time <http://www.spellingtime.com/> (Grades 1-5)
 Spelling City <http://www.spellingcity.com/>
 Game Goo <http://www.eaobics.com/gamegoo/gooley.html> (interactive games Grades 2-5)

Various Subjects:

Fun Brain: <http://funschool.kaboose.com/>
 Fun School: <http://www.funbrain.com/>
 Kid Info: http://www.kidinfo.com/School_Subjects.html
 Yahoo Kids: <http://kids.yahoo.com/learn>
 Homework Hub-Scholastic <http://www.scholastic.com/kids/homework/>
 Kidport <http://www.kidport.com/>
 Gameaquarium: <http://www.gameaquarium.com/>
 I know that! <http://www.iknowthat.com/com>
 Learning Planet <http://www.learningplanet.com/index.asp>

Online books:

Romeo and Juliet: <http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/book/search?author=&amode=words&title=romeo+and+juliet&tmode=words>
<http://www.speak-the-speech.org/romeoandjuliet.htm> (on line audio reading of story)
<http://shakespeare.mit.edu/> (The Complete Works of Shakespeare)
 Of Mice and Men: http://as.sjsu.edu/steinbeck/teaching_steinbeck/index.jsp?val=teaching_of_mice_and_men_homepage

Freedom Asthma Team

The Freedom Asthma Team celebrates our mission which is to provide comprehensive, coordinated asthma interventions using community partnerships for students, parents, staff, community and youth leaders in the Union R-XI School District and the surrounding Franklin County area.

Through a grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health, the Freedom Asthma Team has been able to provide asthma education to community members, district staff and students. Additionally, the team has provided equipment and supplies to over 71 families and schools throughout the area including items such as hepa-filters, filtered window screens, nebulizers, masks, tubing, aerochambers (spacers), bedding supplies, ceiling fan covers, etc.

Plans for the upcoming months include forming a team of Freedom Asthma Team members, community members and parents. "THE WINNING WITH ASTHMA" Program will be offered to all coaches in the district during professional development in February. Referrals from many school districts throughout Franklin County as well as community agencies, organizations, physicians, medical centers and pharmacies continue to come in regularly. Collaboration with Jefferson/Franklin County Community Action along with Healthcare USA resulted in the Freedom Team's participation in a local health fair in which over 600 families were provided services.

We continue to promote this beneficial program and currently have many supplies and educational materials on hand. Participation and supplies are available regardless of your current insurance plan. Please feel free to contact the Freedom Asthma Office at 636-583-1202 for more information.



Union band students traveled to St. Clair on January 13 to audition for the Four Rivers Conference Band. Union had 27 students selected to perform in the band which was the largest school representation in the conference. The students had two rehearsals and then gave concerts at Union and New Haven high schools on Tuesday, January 19. Participating schools included St. Clair, Pacific, Owensville, Hermann, New Haven, St. James, Sullivan and Union.

Row 1 - Tessa McGee, Sam Summers, Caylee Russell, Brandon Stillwell, Lydia Lansford, Chelsea Krattli

Row 2 - Jacob Zweifel, David Luxton, Leah Downard, Taylor Solter, Jaime Lenau, Christa Lenau

Row 3 - Tyler Bay, Amber Keethler, Bethany Dixon, Tori Tappe, Abby Vie, Tori Koenig

Row 4 - Alec Mueller, Caleb Berger, Brandon Yenser, Jonathan Mueller, Brian McGee

Row 5 - Colton Johnson, Brittany Porter, Emmy Kaiser, Jed McCollough

Putting Kids First Article

Through the passage of "Putting Kids First", monies are being made available to various community agencies, resulting in opportunities for students within the Union R-XI School District to possibly receive counseling services. We feel fortunate to have these services made available to our district students.

Crider Center Mental Health Center may provide services to all students in the district with educational programs including; personal safety, healthy dating relationships, violence prevention, bullying and teasing, changes and choices. CMHC can provide individual/family counseling as school-based mental health specialists.

The Pinocchio Program has been going strong at both Beaufort and Central Elementary. This is a screening program which will identify students who may have emerging behavioral, school adjustment or emotionally based learning problems. After permission is received from parents, group and individual sessions are held with the students.

Another agency providing services is Preferred Family Health. This agency provides education/consultation with district staff and students, individual and family outpatient services for youth involved in substance abuse and other risky behaviors. A second program that may be offered is Achieving Recovery through Creativity which utilizes the arts as a means for young people experiencing high risk situations to develop alternate means of expression and coping strategies. Student lunch meetings are held in which students can participate (voluntarily). Referrals can be made through school or with parents' request.

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (NCADA) may provide educational programs on a variety of counseling-related issues involving adolescents that may be experiencing difficulties related to their own drug/alcohol dependency. This agency can provide resource development, case management and educational materials to schools and families.

The Union R-XI School District feels fortunate to become partners with the agencies to meet the needs of our students and families.

Union Wildcat Athletics

With the winter sports beginning to wind down, it's time to start thinking about spring. Union High and Middle School offer several sports for students to participate in during the upcoming months. At the high school level, we have baseball, golf, track, and girls soccer. Students at the middle school can participate in track.

The first possible spring practice will be Monday, March 1. Students must have a physical on file at the high school or bring a copy with them to the first practice. Students will not be permitted to practice without a proper physical. A physical form can be picked up at the high school office or online at www.mshsaa.org.

If you are interested in playing a sport this spring, contact the coach listed below, or contact Chris Arand, Activities Director at the high school.

Come out and be a part of Wildcat Athletics!

Spring Sports

Chris Arand

Activities Director
arandc@union.k12.mo.us
583-2513 x 1707

Ryan Bailey

Boys Baseball Coach
baileyr@union.k12.mo.us
583-2513

Bill Juengel

Boys & Girls Golf Coach
juengelb@union.k12.mo.us
583-2513

Matt Fennessey

Girls Soccer Coach
fennesseym@union.k12.mo.us
583-3152

Brad Julius

Boys Track Coach
julibr@union.k12.mo.us
583-2513

Glenn Mechem

Girls Track Coach
mechemg@union.k12.mo.us
583-2513

Bob Anders

Middle School Track
andersb@union.k12.mo.us
583-5855

Erick Webster

Middle School Track
webstere@union.k12.mo.us
583-2513

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UMS Scholar Bowl Team



The UMS Scholar Bowl team has been working hard to prepare for competition. This year, middle school competitions will be held at St. James Middle School on March 15 and at Washington Middle School on March 20. Team members practice on Tuesday and Wednesday after school with Mrs. Bruns and Mrs. Brueggemann, and on Tuesday and Thursday mornings with Mrs. Wagner.

Additionally, the Scholar Bowl team wrote questions and acted as scorekeepers for the Black Team trivia challenge, which was held on December 22, 2009.

The Scholar Bowl Team includes Curtis Bergner, Michaela Briggs, Casie Busch, Hannah Candrl, Harley Davis, Brett Davis, Dylan Fitzgerald, Brenden Hayes, Joe Hood, Jordynn Reeser, Kaitlyn Reidel, Jordan Snodgrass, Jessica Sterner, and Jesse Kruse.



Black Team Trivia Challenge



Black Team teachers and students participated in a trivia contest emphasizing topics in literature, math, science and history prior to the winter break.



Union Middle School NJHS

The Union Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society had their Christmas Party on Dec. 17. Instead of exchanging gifts, the club decided to bring gifts to be donated to the Kiwanis.

In February, the club will be raising money for the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society.

In March, the club will sponsor a Hat's On Day with all proceeds going to Friends of Kids with Cancer.

In April, the club will hold a fundraiser for the Franklin County Humane Society.

All seventh-graders at Union Middle School who were named to the first semester honor roll were given student activity information sheets to apply to become members of the National Junior Honor Society. Those forms must be returned to Mrs. Durham or Mrs. Johnston by Feb. 16.

The UMS NJHS is sponsored by Nancy Johnston, Carla Durham, Jane Andrews and Bob Anders.

Kop-N-Kids Food Drive

The UMS collected over 1,600 cans for the Kop-N-Kids food drive, prior to the Christmas break. This included a generous donation of \$50 from the student council, who raised the money from their turkey bowl. Also the UMS students raised over \$100 during their lunch shifts, duct taping Gary Menke to the wall. The attached photo shows Mr. Menke being a great sport, donating his time and body for the event. All proceeds went to the Union Food Pantry, which supports all of our local families in need.



Congratulations!!!!

We would like to recognize and congratulate the 233 students at UMS who made first semester honor roll.



Also congratulations go out to students listed as "Most Cooperative" throughout the 2nd quarter: Back Row: Officer Tappe, Shaela Hinkle and Jacob Lenau, Front Row: Michael Wachter, Joe Lenau, Taylor Angel and Rebecca Kramer.

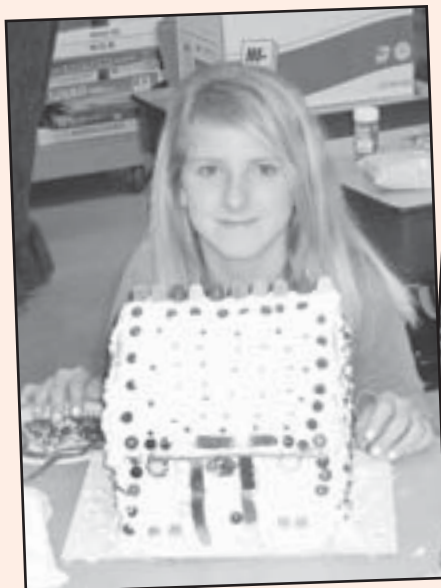
News from Clark-Vitt!

Thank you to all of you who purchased cookie dough from the Clark-Vitt students. The money raised from this pays for our incentive programs, the planners that the students use each year, and it helps supplement the cost of the fifth-grade junior achievement field trip.

The Wildcat Whiskers has several family activities planned for the second semester, they are listed below:

Feb. 18 Dodge ball Tournament 7:00 p.m. at Skaterz- SKATERZ IS DONATING THEIR FACILITY FOR THIS EVENT!!! Form a team or we will put you on a team! The only cost to you is if you want something from the snack bar or to play any of the video games! Your team's combined age can't exceed 100 years. (Example: you could have 10 ten year olds to = 100. A 40 year old and 6 ten year olds = 100.) Build a team and come play!

March 12 Family Breakfast 7:00 a.m. in CV Cafeteria. Enjoy a delicious breakfast in the Clark-Vitt cafeteria! Children pay student price of \$1.25 and adults pay \$1.60.



Help my child to read:

www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/reader/index.html

The Five Essential Components of Reading

Reading with children and helping them practice specific reading components can dramatically improve their ability to read. Scientific research shows that there are five essential components of reading that children must be taught in order to learn to read. Adults can help children learn to be good readers by systematically practicing these five components:

- Recognizing and using individual sounds to create words, or **phonemic awareness**. Children need to be taught to hear sounds in words and that words are made up of the smallest parts of sound, or phonemes.
- Understanding the relationships between written letters and spoken sounds, or **phonics**. Children need to be taught the sounds individual printed letters and groups of letters make. Knowing the relationships between letters and sounds helps children to recognize familiar words accurately and automatically, and “decode” new words.
- Developing the ability to read a text accurately and quickly, or **reading fluency**. Children must learn to read words rapidly and accurately in order to understand what is read. When fluent readers read silently, they recognize words automatically. When fluent readers read aloud, they read effortlessly and with expression. Readers who are weak in fluency read slowly, word by word, focusing on decoding words instead of comprehending meaning.
- Learning the meaning and pronunciation of words, or **vocabulary development**. Children need to actively build and expand their knowledge of written and spoken words, what they mean and how they are used.
- Acquiring strategies to understand, remember and communicate what is read, or **reading comprehension strategies**. Children need to be taught comprehension strategies, or the steps good readers use to make sure they understand text. Students who are in control of their own reading comprehension become purposeful, active readers.

My child's academic success: learning science, math, reading, history, homework help, succeed in school, early adolescence and much more. <http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/hyc.html>

How to Help: Show That You Think Education and Homework Are Important

- Set a Regular Time for Homework
- Pick a Place
- Remove Distractions
- Provide Supplies and Identify Resources
- Set a Good Example
- Be Interested and Interesting



How to Help: Monitor Assignments

- Ask about the School's Homework Policy
- Be Available
- Look over Completed Assignments
- Monitor Time Spent Viewing TV and Playing Video Games

How to Help: Provide Guidance

- Help Your Child Get Organized
- Encourage Good Study Habits
- Talk about the Assignments
- Watch for Frustration
- Give Praise

How to Help: Talk with Teachers to Resolve Problems

- Tell the Teacher about Your Concerns
- Work with the Teacher

Gifts that Encourage Reading

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=1328>
 Books & Reading (all ages) Q & A <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/booksandreading.jsp>
 Parent Involvement Podcasts: <http://www.arcc.edvantia.org/page/Parent-InvolvementPodcasts/>
 • Tips from Being involved in Schools to Helping with Homework!
 • View the podcasts and print the guide to the presentation.
 Study Guides and Strategies Web site- Great for your study skills classes
<http://www.studygs.net/>



News from Central Elementary



Things are back into a routine at Central Elementary – after a wonderful holiday break. We hope everyone had a safe and restful vacation!! Now we are just working hard and learning every single day and having a fun time in the process.

Working our way backwards from our last Pawprints, students have had the opportunity to be involved in several great activities. Our Dress-UP – Manners day was a great success on December 18. Students were served lunch on tablecloths, with soft music and lighting, and special desserts in the cafeteria! Our students had such a good time practicing their best, best manners!!! Since we combined it with our Teddy Bear Parade Day, it turned in to double the fun. Students marched around each hallway with their bear or stuffed animal. We also took pictures of students to send home to families with holiday and happy winter wishes on December 22. We hope our families enjoyed those!!

Several of our classes performed Thanksgiving plays and did creative activities in November. Our fall parties were on November 24. Third-graders were lucky to get to do games in the gym – which was a new idea this year. According to all reports from kids ... they had a great time. Our CWP also hosted our first annual Fall Festival on October 23. Even in the drizzle, we had a very large turn out and our families enjoyed the evening.

Positive Behavior Support and Perfect Attendance celebrations are being held in January. Students who qualified for PBS reward earned a popcorn/movie party. Students with perfect attendance for first semester earned a donut party and a certificate. Keep up the good work, boys and girls!!

On the academic side, Central is implementing several new programs to support student learning. As demands become greater from the state and federal levels, we – as well as the districts all around us, must keep on the progressive edge. Progress Pro is a new technology program to support our second- and third- graders. This program helps to prepare students for MAP testing and supports reading, language arts, and math. We have also added Education City, Study Island and Alphabet A-Z for our school. Our reading pilot in Hallway A is offering promising results. We are doing everything in our power to help ALL students read at their assigned grade level!!!

Teachers are in the process of planning an open house/curriculum night for each grade level. Parents will be invited in to visit and/or do an activity with their child. Look for more specific information coming home with your child in the next few weeks. Because of our large numbers here at Central, limited parking, etc. – we must stagger our dates, so we apologize in advance to those parents who have more than one student enrolled with us.

As we all “enjoy winter” and wait for the daffodils to pop up – we will be participating in several activities and events planned by Central teachers or our CWP. A calendar of events for the next few weeks is included to help everyone plan ahead.

Remember we welcome you to visit us at any time with ideas! Thanks so very much to the MANY parent volunteers who now help us in the library and the office. We appreciate you!!!



Central Elementary Upcoming Events

- Pizza Fundraiser Kickoff** – February 9
- Valentine Parties** – February 11
- NO SCHOOL** – President’s Day – February 15
- Delta Dental Program** – February 19
- MAP Dates** – April 7,8,9,13,14,15



Building Work Day

We had a building work day on Nov. 14 – Teachers painted different colored paw prints in each hallway to go along with the emergency plan developed by Kevin Anderson. We also worked on an outdoor classroom with parents Chris Canby and Jason Bailey, who donated their time and resources.

Beaufort Elementary School

Did you know that at Beaufort we fill buckets every day? We have a positive atmosphere where academic and social learning occur each day for students and staff. We began the year by reading and focusing on the book, "Have you Filled A Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids" by Carol McCloud and Illustrated by David Messing to kids and to each other. This book encourages positive behavior and inspires us to see how easy it is to express kindness, appreciation and love on a daily basis. As we review the first half of our school year we hope you find us bucket fillers. We hope you find Beaufort a special place where we show acts of kindness to each other by saying and doing nice things. We hope you catch us care, teach and show love for kids! Thank you to the community for your support in 2009 and we feel confident as we face challenges in 2010 that we will continue to work together as a community of bucket fillers.

Upcoming Events:

- **Mr. Z's items go on sale** beginning February 16 through March 2.
- **McTeacher's Night-Eat at McDonald's** between 4 and 8 p.m. on March 2 and let the Beaufort staff serve you dinner! Beaufort Elementary receives 25 percent of funds to help our school!
- **Prefestival Music Conference** on March 4 at 7 p.m. with the festival on March 6.
- March 9 - **Second-Grade Performance "Seausical"** 7 p.m.
- March 30 through April 16 **MAP Testing time** for grades 3-6

