

# MARCH 2010

Council Grove  
Elementary School  
Council Grove, KS

March 2010

## CGES Newsletter

### Calendar of Events

- March 1 After School Program Scholarship Applications are due
- March 1-4 State Reading Assessments, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade
- March 2 Dr Seuss Celebration, 7-8pm, gym
- March 3 Class Pictures for Grades Preschool-5<sup>th</sup>
- March 5 End of 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 Weeks Early Dismissal 1:10pm  
Dead line for Yearbook orders
- March 9-11 State Math Assessments, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade
- March 10 DQ Fund Raiser  
PTO, 5:30pm, library  
School Site Meeting, 6:30pm library
- March 15-19 Spring Break
- March 22 Staff Development, NO SCHOOL
- March 24-26 State Math Assessments, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
- March 30- April 1 State Math Assessments, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Kindergarten Roundup

Kindergarten Roundup will be held Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you have a child who will be 5 years old by August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010, they qualify to attend kindergarten next school year. Please contact the school at 767-6851 if you have an eligible child or if you have any other questions.

### Spelling Bee

The 2010 Council Grove Elementary/Middle Spelling Bee was held on February 2, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Council Grove Elementary Cafeteria. Participants went 14 rounds to determine a winner. Erica Hecht, 8<sup>th</sup> grader, came out on top as the champion speller. Erica will advance to the Morris County Bee along with Abigail Kline, 7<sup>th</sup> grader, and Kristina Laizure, 6<sup>th</sup> grader.

Spelling Bee qualifiers were: **1<sup>st</sup> grade- Mrs. Goodell**- Ally Bacon, Sanaia Palmquist, Javier Pool-Alternate; **Mrs. Mayer** - Gavin Swalley, Cora Noer, Isaac Buchman-Alternate; **Mr. England**- Kyra Smith, Brooke McNorton, Colton Tiffany-Alternate; **2<sup>nd</sup> grade - Mrs. Hayes**- Charles Olson, Shyanne Allen, Kristen Watson- Alternate; **Mrs. Collins**- Logan Callahan, Jason Hecht, Macy Seadeek - Alternate; **3<sup>rd</sup> grade - Mrs. Johnson**- Jaedyn Miller, Kale Noer, Abbie Schroeder-Alternate; **Mrs. Richardson** - Dedric Frese, Zoey Barber, Lydia Weltha-Alternate; **Mrs. Stone**- Jordan Kelly, Keanna Reed, Brett Birzer-Alternate; **4<sup>th</sup> grade - Mrs. Jernigan**- Christian Helton, Elijah Ackley, Dakota Kelley-Alternate; **Miss Moran**- Sam Kirk, Brittney Wells, Alvin Holmes-Alternate; **Mrs. Tischhauser**- Melissa Filkin, Armando Mascote, Carlos Solis-Alternate; **5<sup>th</sup> grade - Mrs. Catlin**- Blake McNorton, Meghan LeMay, Ethan Schraad-Alternate; **Mrs. Hanson**- Joey Acosta, Brett Frye, Blake Buchman - Alternate; **Mrs. Bachura**- Zach Graham, Courtney Seadeek, Mara Grover-Alternate; **6<sup>th</sup> grade** - Austin McNorton, Kristina Laizure, Luke Richardson, C.J.Brammer, Chelsea Watson, Nikki Hawkins, Payton Lerner-Alternate, Maddy Tischhauser-Alternate; **7<sup>th</sup> grade**- Chance Henke, Mitchell Wecker, Harley Truan, Emilee Bowen, Abigail Kline, Bobby Grover, Makaela Zuege-Alternate, Kacey Selby-Alternate, Colt Hiebert-Alternate; **8<sup>th</sup> grade** - Berkley Criqui, Ryan Adams, Erica Hecht, Brier Fox, Brett Rohloff, Jodi Johnson, Emily Whitaker-Alternate, Skyler Stevenson-Alternate.

The Morris County Spelling Bee was held February 10, 2010, at the Council Grove High School Auditorium. There were three participants from Council Grove Elementary/Middle School, three from Prairie Heights Elementary/Middle and three from White City Schools. Erica Hecht, 8<sup>th</sup> grader, Kristina Laizure, 6<sup>th</sup> grader and alternate Luke Richardson, 6<sup>th</sup> grader participated from Council Grove Elementary/Middle.

Luke Richardson won in 12 rounds with Erica Hecht coming in second. Morgan Ash from White City was third. The Council Grove team won the team competition also.

### **“Top Five to Effective Family Communication”**

It seems that these long, snowy winter months have offered me many opportunities to ponder **communication** with families of all make-ups and ages. And, really, what engaging activity is there that does not require effective two-way communication: talking and listening? I suppose some would readily nominate television, movies, or digital/electronic media but surely there is a saturation point to those. In addition to the ideas mentioned in the January Newsletter, here are the tried-and-true practices that have topped our list over the past thirty years:

- A friend of ours once said, “If you want to find out what is going on with [the two boys], **plan a sit-down meal together**. Then, just sit back and listen.”
- Eldon Moore often said, “They don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.” For us, he could not have been more right! There are many, many important qualities to model for our children that, we believe, will lead them down a pathway of success. However, in retrospect, I know that none of them was more important than **caring for one another**.
- Sherry Edmiston tells of her mother’s adage, “You can get glad in the same pants you got mad in.” We choose our mood and our attitude; we must **be in control of ourselves**. As the adults it is imperative that we model the behavior we ask of our children.
- We must **listen more than we talk**. My husband reminds me that we have two ears and one mouth and they need to be used in that proportion. We must seek to understand before we seek to be heard. Finally, do you realize that “silent” and “listen” have the exact same letters?
- I would be amiss to leave out the **journal**. In fact, it would easily top our list. Journaling played a vital role in mending a difficult time for us. I often found that I was so intent on getting done what I felt had to be done that I forgot to say the positives to the girls and my husband. Then, after all were in bed and I was finishing up the day, I remembered, too late, what I hadn’t said. So the family room journal was born, a place I could write the positive messages of appreciation, love and caring that I hadn’t taken time to say earlier. The journal became a best-seller at our house: the first to be read in the morning and vigorously sought after to record messages of joy, appreciation, love, as well as frustration. We all used it; and through it we were reminded of the power of positive, effective communication.
- (I know, number 6 – but it is important!) Sometimes, we have to **work at listening** so kids will talk. For one of ours, it was at bedtime with the lights out. For her, it was easier to talk side-by-side rather than face-to-face. For the other, it was when she got home at night; no stopping her then and I learned so much! If we had not been up when she got home, little would have been shared eight hours later. A book from the 1980’s, **How to Talk so Kids Will Listen & Listen so Kids Will Talk** by Faber and Mazlish, still offers great guidelines on how to work at listening. As the *Science Monitor* printed, “It will bring about more cooperation from children than all the yelling and pleading in the world.” Just let me know if you would like to borrow it.

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Listening is the oldest and perhaps the most powerful tool of healing. It is often the quality of our listening rather than the wisdom of our words that makes a difference to the people we love.