

January 2010

USD 417 News

INSIDE

2

**Newsletter online
Media Program
I remember ...**

3

**“On Improvement”
Monetary Contribution**

4

**PHMS Award
CGHS Updates**

Year’s end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us.

Hal Borland

This newsletter has been produced by USD 417 District Office.

Council Grove High School
Prairie Heights Elementary - Prairie Heights Middle
Council Grove Elementary/Middle School

Body Venture Exhibit

USD 417 students (K-5) participated in an innovative way to learn about the importance of good nutrition and physical fitness. A traveling exhibit allowed students to tour ten stations



while learning about key health concepts. Throughout the exhibit the students learned how to incorporate the “Eat Smart, Play Hard” motto. Body Venture is developed and operated by Child Nutrition and Wellness, Kansas State Department of Education. Community members volunteered by working at the stations, and by erecting and disassembling the exhibit. Area foundations provided monetary support.

Look what’s ahead

- January 4 Staff Development - NO SCHOOL
- January 5 Classes Resume for Students
- January 18 Martin Luther King Day - NO SCHOOL
- February 12. Parent Teacher Conf. Week - NO SCHOOL
- February 15 Staff Development - NO SCHOOL
- March 5 End of Third Quarter - Early Dismissal
- March 15 - 19 Spring Break - NO SCHOOL
- March 22. Staff Development - NO SCHOOL

Please refer to the district interactive calendar at www.usd417.net for the most up-to-date information on building activities, such as geography bees, sports events, and field days.

NEWSLETTER ONLINE

All areas of our school district are implementing new practices to reduce costs to cope with the budget reductions. Effective this issue, the district newsletter will be not be printed and mailed. We will post the newsletter online for you to view. Please visit www.usd417.net for the current issue.

LIGHTS - CAMERA - ACTION TCT TV Media Program

Tri-County Telephone Association, Inc. has purchased equipment for several area schools. Last year, TCT held an informal training session with participating instructors. During the session, instructors learned about functions the new equipment can perform, and how they, and their students, will be able to use the equipment to accomplish day to day tasks in the classroom.



Bruce Hula, CGHS

TCT TV Community Channel and area schools will be working together to bring TCT TV Television subscribers local interest stories, sporting events and community events. The TCT TV Media program will encompass many aspects of film and multi-media production, including conceptualizing, filming, producing and editing content; as well as, computer applications, as they relate to video media production.

Many of the student's productions have already aired on TCT TV Community Channel 2. High school games, will replay regularly on Channel 2 as well as Live Audio Broadcasts with announcer, Bill Stallard. TCT looks forward to continuing the partnership between Council Grove High School and TCT TV, in the years to come. Viewers should stay tuned!

I remember when..

When I started to high school in 1937, I had lived my life kind of isolated from others and was kind of a "hick from the sticks." Many upperclassmen took advantage of that with me crawling around like a dog when teachers weren't around. The principal, a Mr. Bland, who had been principal of many small country high schools sort of knew of my problems and helped me in many ways to adapt and become a part of the whole program. He was the teacher of our manual training class which only had wood to work with. I learned alot that has helped me in part of my life as a builder. I would have quit school several times if it hadn't have been for his guidance and I think of him often through out my life as one of the very special persons I have known. Warren Dix

If you have a special memory of your school days -- please email them to jtroxell@cgrove417.org

District Mission
Employees, parents, and patrons through their cooperative efforts assure district students of the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to develop into lifelong learners who respect themselves and others, contribute to their communities, and succeed in a changing world.

Board of Education
USD 417 BOE meets
the 2nd Monday of the month
at 6:30 p.m.

Members for 2009-2010 are:

Terry Powell,
District 1 Position 1

John Cosgrove
District 2 Position 2

Linda Pretzer
District 1 Position 3

David Fox
District 1 Position 4

Chad Evans
District 2 Position 5

Teresa Asebedo
District 2 Position 6

Martha White
Member-at-Large

Monetary Contribution



Ed Brandt (left) and Clifford Carroll (right), representing the Knights of Columbus presented USD #417 Superintendent Diane Miller a check from their recent Tootsie Roll Drive. Monies are to be used to provide some extra funding for special education students.

“On Improvement” Activities

It was an unusually busy time in the district this fall as we organized and worked on activities required due to being “On Improvement.” At the end of September, our district hosted a required Team Visit during which a team of experts and peers from the Kansas Learning Network conducted surveys, visited classrooms, and interviewed individuals and groups. After the visit, the Team provided the district with a report identifying our key challenges and strengths. This report is called the “Needs Analysis of Morris County School District – USD 417.” The Needs Analysis can be found on the front page of the district website www.usd417.net under “USD 417 Public Information.” We are not required to address every item in the report (see below).

Throughout the fall, members of the District Planning Team met weekly to complete the first draft of the USD 417 District Improvement Plan, which encompasses all grade levels and all schools. The Improvement Plan covers the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years and is based on information from the Team Visit as well as data from several other sources. The Plan describes many aspects of our school district and lays out our goals and specific plans to meet those goals. As a major part of our Improvement Plan, all schools have been working on tasks to begin the Kansas Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). More information about each school’s MTSS will be coming from the buildings directly to parents. The USD 417 District Improvement Plan will be posted on the district website at the end of January when it is finalized.

Congratulations to....



Prairie Heights Middle School received the Governor's Achievement Award for 2009 assessment scores. Presentation of this award was on December 7th. Congratulations to the students and staff!

High School Addition PROJECT UPDATE

According to Construction Superintendent Shane Murrey of Ferrell Construction, framing for the roof has started on the south side of the gym. Contractors are busy assembling this on the ground. Following assembly, it will be lifted to its destination. This should take around 4 to 6 weeks to complete. Inside the addition, sheetrock is being hung and taped. The painters are scheduled to begin painting block walls during the week of January 14th.

