
WILDCAT PRIDE



Issue 31

USD 263 District Newsletter

JAN 2012

Getting to Know Your School Board

Jennifer Keys

I ran for the Board of Education with the hope that I could have a positive impact on the community which has been so generous and gracious to my entire family.

Although we did not move here until June 2004 (exactly one week before the tornado,) we became “Mulvaniacs” in 2003 when my husband, Phil, began teaching and coaching at the high school. At the same time, our son, Sam, enrolled at MMS as a seventh grader. In part because of our involvement in athletics, we quickly felt at home in Mulvane. By the following school year we were living here, and our daughter, Maggie, was enrolled as a fourth grader at MGS; she is currently a junior at the high school.

As much as we loved Mulvane during the good times, we discovered that the community’s true colors shine during times of tragedy. In January of 2006 I was diagnosed with breast cancer, resulting in four surgeries and eight rounds of chemotherapy. What an outpouring of love we received! In November of that same year Sam, and his best friend, Kyle Adams were killed in a car wreck. There is no doubt in my mind that the love and support we got from our friends - those we knew and those we did not - allowed us to survive that terrible time. There is not enough space in this newsletter, nor are there adequate words, to describe the amazing acts of kindness we witness, even to this day!



My mission, as a board member, a parent, a teacher, and a community member is to promote character and civility. We emphasize it through the Spirit of Three Memorial Scholarship, created in honor of Sam, Kyle, and Emmy Sue, and I try to model it in my daily actions. I hope that someday everyone will live by the credo I learned from my parents: Doing the right thing isn’t always easy, but it is always right.

Spring Kansas Computerized Assessments February 15 - April 20, 2012

The state of Kansas requires students take a battery of Kansas Assessments in the spring of each school year. **No Child Left Behind** (NCLB) requires each state assess the following subjects:

Reading and Math in the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades and once in high school.

Science in 4th, and 7th grades. Life Science in 9th grade. Physical Science in 11th grade.

History/Government assessment is required on alternating years for 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students. **Students will be assessed this year.**

Writing is assessed every other year and is **scheduled to be assessed in 2012-2013** for 5th, 8th, and 11th grades.

Specific testing schedules will be available at your student's buildings.

Consider the following to help your student prepare for testing:

- Regular school attendance
- Proper rest/exercise/diet
- Quiet/comfortable place for studying at home
- Space out study time over day and weeks
- Schedule appointments around test days
- Encourage students

District testing calendar can be viewed at:
usd263.com/vcalendar

Capture the Turkey 2011



Students at the Mulvane Grade School have been running the soles off their shoes in Physical Education.

They started by jogging/biking to the park to play Frisbee Golf...continued with timed runs and lots of games like Capture the Flag. They learned how to take their pulse and how to judge whether they were working hard enough to condition a strong heart. They learned how long, how hard and how often you need to work out to condition for Cardiovascular Fitness and what types of activities were best to accomplish that goal. They learned by listening, but they also learned by doing. The best was saved for last right before Thanksgiving break. Students participated in our annual school wide Capture the Turkey event the Tuesday before break. It started in the morning with grade level competitions in the grassy area east of the building until one class emerged the winner from each grade level. In the afternoon, the winning third grade class (Mrs. Morris's class) played against the winning fourth grade class (Ms. Pound). Mrs. Morris's class emerged the winner from that competition. Fifteen minutes later, Mrs. Morris's class admitted defeat to Mrs. Cottrell's class. The teachers assembled around 2:15 for the competition against Mrs. Cottrell's fifth grade. KSN news was in attendance to film the battle. After a hard fight, the teachers once again emerged the winner in an 8 to 6 victory over Mrs. Cottrell's class. It was all smiles and high fives as the teachers and students congratulated each other on a fun and hard fought game.



Big In Schools Program

The Bigs In Schools Program, a spin-off of the successful mentoring program Big Brothers Big Sisters, is now being offered to students in Mulvane Schools. *More volunteers are needed* to make it a success. Any community member who enjoys working with children of any age and can give just one hour of their week is eligible! Interested individuals will go through a screening process and are monitored through the match. Mentors/ "Bigs" then meet with their "Little" once a week during the school day. Bigs can help with schoolwork, play games, or eat lunch together. Volunteers are asked to make at least a one year commitment to the program.

The benefits to children who participate in Big Brothers Big Sisters or Bigs in schools are evident, according to a study conducted by Harris Interactive. Alumni of the program are 75% more likely than non-alumni to earn a four-year college degree and tend to earn more money in their jobs as adults. Eighty-nine percent of students who participate reported improved grades and 71% reported improved student attitude.

Interested individuals can contact Joan Loughmiller, Sumner County Support Specialist for Bigs, at 399-8030 or 455-3600 or jloughmiller@ksbbbs.org. More information can also be found at www.kansasbigs.org or by calling 888-574-2447.

Reduced Price & Free School Meals Are Available At Mulvane USD #263

Mulvane USD #263 participates in the Child Nutrition Program administered by the Kansas State Department of Education. Application forms are available at each school building, the district office and the district website. During these tough economic times, we encourage you to fill out an application to see if your student qualifies for this program. All applications are treated confidentially. Mulvane USD #263 wants to give each student the opportunity to have a nutritious breakfast and/or lunch.

MSGT John Dingman Visits the Classroom



As part of the 3rd grade writing curriculum, Mrs. Cunningham's class has been working on letter writing. They wrote letters to MSGT John Dingman while he was stationed in Qatar. He was able to return home from his deployment in November and made a special visit to Mrs. Cunningham's class to answer questions and share with the students. He also gave the class a flag that will be on display in the classroom.

3rd Grade Field Trip to *The Nutcracker Ballet*

The 3rd grade students at MGS attended the Christmas classic *Nutcracker Ballet* on Friday, December 16. They all enjoyed getting to see the ballet performance of the *Nutcracker* since they had performed the music a week earlier in their Music Program. It was a great experience!



Moving Right Along at MMS

One half of the 2011-2012 school year is complete! It's hard to believe. The sixth graders have adjusted nicely, the eighth graders are closer to becoming high school students, and the seventh graders are one semester away from becoming the leaders of MMS. MMS has had a tremendous first semester with lots of activities. The second semester is sure to bring more of the same.

The teachers have made a tremendous effort to keep parents informed, especially when students are failing to complete work.

As always, thank you for allowing us to serve your student. Anytime you have a concern or if you have a "pat on the back" to pass along, please let us know.

A healthy reminder from the school nurse:

Winter brings in the flu season. Everyone needs to take time to remember to wash hands well with warm water and soap, get plenty of rest and to drink lots of fluids.

Useful website for MMS parents/guardians:

Lots of good information can also be found on the district website: www.usd263.com. Updated calendars, links to all middle school teacher email addresses, and other important information can be found there. Click "Skyward Family Access" to check grades and attendance.

MMS School-wide Fundraiser

MMS will start collecting soup labels and Box tops as a school-wide fundraiser as well as helping to recycle.

Starting January 4th, MMS will be collecting plastic bags in specified collection bins. Items to be recycled include: plastic grocery/department store bags, zip lock bags, newspaper sleeves, produce bags, dry-cleaning bags, bread bags, and toilet paper/paper towel overwrap. No saran wrap will be accepted. All materials must be clean, dry and free of food residue.

By participating in this recycling program, the school receives a birdhouse made of Trex material and competes with other schools to win a park bench. The winner is determined by the total amount recycled. Mulvane Middle School is the only Kansas school participating.

Art News at the Mulvane Middle School

The 6th grade art students have been busy working on figure drawing. Prior to figure drawing they did clay skulls to learn about the Mexican Days of the Dead holiday.

The 7th grade art students have finished painting their Ceramic Totem Poles. The Totem Poles are made up of handmade miniature objects which represent the students. These projects are all unique and very interesting to look at.

The 8th grade art students are busy finishing up two final projects. They are completing the final stage of their Egyptian Pots by applying glaze. They are also finishing up their Animal Hand projects. These projects have been very fun and different. The animal hands are made out of plaster paris. The animals are in the form of hands, but are painted like animals.

Look for many of the projects in the Art and Technology Show in March!



Mulvane Academy News

Mulvane Academy has had a busy and successful first semester. Currently 21 students attend the Academy. Five are seniors, 14 are juniors, and two are sophomores. One of our most memorable times is our Thanksgiving Feast on November 22 at St. Michael's Catholic Church. Families, students, staff, and guests enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving meal and great fellowship.



The students have also been involved in community service projects. In December, the students filled hundreds of bags with candy for the Chamber of Commerce's Christmas event. They also "adopted" a 3 year old girl who was not going to have a Christmas. Among the items brought or purchased were a blanket, pillow, coat, clothes, Barbie Doll, baby doll, and other toys. The students were happy that they could contribute to such a good cause.



The students went on a field trip to Wichita Area Technical College on December 8. They were informed of the different programs, certifications, and degrees that are offered. They also enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by WATC before returning to school. Each student then wrote a paper about which career they might be interested in pursuing. It was a very enjoyable, informative day!



Staff members at Mulvane Academy are Cindy Wirths, secretary; Amy Dempsey, Language Arts teacher; Dawn Kebert, Math teacher; Vicky Hilgers, Science teacher; and Barbie Hamlin, Principal. "As the principal, I am very proud of my staff and students. Students are working hard to earn their high school diploma, and teachers are dedicated to helping them make that goal a reality. I would like to extend an invitation to anyone in the community to come to the Academy and observe our school."



MHS Hosting Regional Wrestling Tournament

Mulvane High School is excited to announce that we are hosting the 2012 4A Regional Wrestling Tournament. The tournament will be held at Mulvane High School on February 17th and 18th, 2012. Wrestling starts at 2:00 pm on Friday, February 17th. The following schools have been assigned to our regional tournament: Andale, Augusta, Buhler, Cheney, Clearwater, Eldorado, Hesston, Hugoton, Maize-South, Mulvane, Pratt, Rose Hill, Towanda-Circle, Ulysses, and Wellington.

Mulvane High School Basketball games vs Augusta will be held at the Mulvane Middle School on Friday, February 17th starting at 4:15 pm.

MHS & MMS Vocal Music Dept.

The MHS and MMS Vocal Music Departments have been busy first semester. Esprit de Corps has performed at the Homecoming Football game, NHS Induction, the Veteran's Day Assembly, Sedgwick County Courthouse, Villa Maria, Derby Sterling House, Town West, Carson Bank, Mulvane Senior Center, Our Savior Lutheran Church, United Methodist Church, the Legion, the VA Hospital and all schools in the district. Esprit de Corps also did their yearly fundraiser in October. Thanks to all who supported them. The MHS production of "Guys and Dolls" performed for appreciative crowds in November.

The MMS Honor Choir attended an all day clinic at Circle culminating in a concert of the combined choirs from all the Pioneer League schools in our division. Women's Choir performed for the Villa Maria. Esprit de Corps, Women's Choir, Mixed Chorus and a few special acts joined together on Monday, December 5th to present the MHS Winter Concert, which was a big success.

The MMS 6th grade general music students of the 2nd nine weeks and the 7/8 Choir presented their Winter Concert on Monday, December 19th at the high school.

All school sponsored concerts are free to the public and everyone is welcome to attend.

Are you in charge of finding entertainment for an event, meeting or party? Call Rachel Jansen 777-1183 to see about booking a choir.

MHS Financial Aide Night

Mulvane High School is hosting its annual Financial Aid Night on Monday, January 9, at 7:00 p.m. We will meet in the Auditorium at MHS. We invite seniors and their parents to attend. Juniors and their parents may want to come to hear about the various types of financial aid available and how the process works. It seems to help the senior year go more smoothly when students and their parents have the time to discuss and research the various methods of financial assistance for post-secondary education.

A Financial Aid Representative from Southwestern College in Winfield will be present to explain the federal financial aid program and share various types of aid. She will also discuss the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and help parents and students avoid common mistakes that delay the process. The program will last approximately an hour.

We hope to see you there.

Mulvane Lions Club Mobile Screening Unit Free to Public

February 11th @ 7:00 am - 1:00 pm
@ the Mulvane High School Parking Lot

The screening will include:

Vision - Field division screening
Vision acuity
Pedia vision

Hearing
Blood Pressure
Blood Sugar



The District Welcomes Two New Members

We are excited to introduce two new employees to the Mulvane School District Technology Department.



Thomas Schmitz has been promoted to the Director of Technology position. Mr. Schmitz is a 15 year veteran of the district, most recently serving as Technology Integration Specialist.



Greg Proctor has also joined the district as the Network Analyst. Mr. Proctor is a long-time Mulvane resident. He has extensive experience in the Information Technology industry, including MIS and Network Management, Operations Management and Desktop Support.

Both Mr. Schmitz and Mr. Proctor have started in their new positions.

Annual Fire Inspections

Mulvane Emergency Services recently completed the district's annual fire safety inspections. The inspection was conducted in each school and all buildings. We are happy to report that no violations were recorded. Congratulations staff and students for a job well done!

Energy Saving Adding Up

After only five months, the savings are adding up for the district! By upgrading fluorescent light bulbs, winterizing windows and doors, adjusting thermostats and continuous efforts by staff and students the district has saved \$19,277. This puts us in a great position to exceed our goal of saving \$38,000 by the end of May.

Mulvane Education Foundation Building Futures, Strengthening Mulvane

The Mulvane Education Foundation is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization and all donations are tax deductible. The foundation will support innovative educational initiatives benefiting the teachers of Mulvane. To request more information on the Mulvane Education Foundation, please contact: Tom Keil at 777-1155.

For the latest news and information including inclement weather delays and closings you can visit us on Facebook: [Mulvane Public Schools](#) and Twitter: [@Mulvane Schools](#)



The winter season is upon us, and with it comes the possibility of inclement weather affecting school opening. We understand that our decision to open or close schools in bad weather has a big impact on families. The safety and security of our students and staff is our highest priority.

The decision to close schools is based on the best information available at the time the decision is made. Although the staff and superintendent do their best in the process, we know that often no perfect decision exists. **IF WE ARE OPEN AND YOU DO NOT FEEL THAT IT IS SAFE FOR YOUR CHILD TO ATTEND SCHOOL, THEN PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD.** Please note the reason for absence is the inclement weather. You can always wait until the bad weather passes and then bring your child to school for the remainder of the day.

How do we make school closing decisions?

The decision to open or close schools in bad weather is based on a careful analysis of all the relevant factors, including:

- Road conditions throughout the school district
- Amount of snow and ice
- Whether precipitation is expected to continue
- Building conditions
- Parking lot and sidewalk conditions at the schools
- Temperatures and wind chill factors
- Collaboration with surrounding school Superintendents

Who makes the decision?

- The Superintendent of School is responsible for the final decision, based on the above factors and input from the transportation and facilities departments, and collaboration with surrounding school Superintendents.

When is the decision made?

- The decision is typically made between 5:00 - 5:30 AM

How is the public notified?

- You will be notified by a direct phone call from USD 263, using the *School Messenger* calling system.
- The notice is also posted on the local TV stations (Ch. 3, 10, 12) along with local radio stations- KFDI, KICT, KYQQ, KKRK, KRBB, KEYN, KFBZ, KFH

What Can You DO?

Be prepared! When weather is threatening the night before, please have plans for the possibility that school may be closed.



Mulvane USD 263 Mission Statement:

The mission of the Mulvane Public Schools is to prepare all students with academic and life skills while respecting the diverse social, educational, and cultural characteristics of each individual student.

The core values of Mulvane students and staff are based on a foundation of:

- *Respectful, positive relationships*
- *Safe learning environment*
- *Competent, knowledgeable staff*
- *Appropriate social skills and citizenship*
- *Professionalism with integrity*
- *Open and honest communication*

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Superintendent of Schools
 Dr. Brad Rahe

Board of Education
 Tim Snider, President
 Travis Cottrell, Vice President
 Richard Canfield
 Dennis Springer
 Jennifer Keys
 Ron Becker
 Steve Fry

Board of Education meetings are held at the Mulvane District Office at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd & 4th Monday of each month.



Munson Primary - 777-0151
 Terri Lemos, Principal
Grade School - 777-1981
 Raquel Charbonneau, Principal
Middle School - 777-2022
 Traci Becker, Principal
 Brad Hoy, Asst. Principal/Athletic Dir.
High School - 777-1183
 Jay Ensley, Principal
 Cathi Wilson, Asst. Principal
 Doug Evers, Asst. Principal/Athletic Dir.
Mulvane Academy - 777-3070
 Barbie Hamlin, Principal
Special Services - 777-1102
 Don Pennington, Director
Financial Officer - 777-1102
 Carolyn Young, Director
Human Resources - 777-1102
 Tom Keil, Director
Special Education - 777-1102
 Gay Younkin, Director
Assessment/Curriculum/Inst. - 777-1102
 Joyce Harting, Director
Transportation/Maintenance - 777-0501
 Daniel Fenn, Director
Food Service/Maintenance - 777-3003
 Richard Hampton, Director
Technology - 777-1102
 Thomas Schmitz, Director

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If you have any items for this publication, please contact Angela Sagely at the Administrative Office at 777-1102 or email to asagely@usd263.k12.ks.us

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