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# WILDCAT PRIDE



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Issue 8

USD 263 District Newsletter

OCT 2013

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## **Getting to Know Your School Board Members** **Gary McGuire**

I was born and raised in the small community of Wakeeney, Kansas. I graduated from Kansas State University in 1980, with an Accounting degree from K-State. I also met and married the love of my life for the past 33 years. The reason for that short synopsis is to explain how I arrived in Mulvane. My wife, Kim, started teaching at Munson Primary in 1980 and after a 32 year career she retired in 2012 only to come back and continue to sub on a full/part time basis.

I started an insurance career in Mulvane in 1989. For the past 7-1/2 years, I have been the President of Carson Insurance Group. I have served in many areas of the Mulvane community for the past 25 years, from the Mulvane Library board, Chamber of Commerce, City Council, and now the Mulvane School Board. I believe that if you live in a community you should be involved.

Our three sons, Kyle (30), Travis (28) and Corbin (22) all graduated from Mulvane, (also Kansas State University). They were all involved in academic and sports activities during their tenure in the USD 263 school system.

I am currently filling a 2 year term on the Board of Education. I feel the current board and administration are doing an amazing job. We have staff and facilities which are second to none in the state of Kansas. We should all feel blessed to have our children attending school in Mulvane.

Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or concerns. I look forward to working together with everyone in growing our youth into the leaders of tomorrow.

## Studying Color Blending at MPS

Ms. Kincaid's pre-K class is studying color blending.

They used a shallow tray of milk and dropped in blue, yellow and red food coloring, then a small squirt of dish soap. The soap interacted with the milk to create swirls and color blends. The students were astonished by the different effects of the ingredients they used in their project!



## Mulvane Parents as Teachers

Mulvane Parents as Teachers (P.A.T.) is a home/school partnership that begins when learning begins - at birth. P.A.T. is based on the philosophy that parents are their children's first and most influential teachers.

In their beginning years, children learn more and at a much faster pace than any other time in their lives. Our program helps parents make the most of these crucial early-learning years, giving children the best possible start in life.

All families, regardless of socio-economic status, can benefit from participation in P.A.T. We are a FREE, year-round program offering personalized home visits, group meetings, periodic screenings, and a resource network to all families in Mulvane USD263. For more information and upcoming events, please contact Heather Leggett or Debbie White at Munson Primary School: 777-0151, ext. 1401 or 1124.

## Bullying Awareness Week October 7-13, 2013

One of our most important goals is to ensure that every student is provided a safe learning environment free from bullying. We believe this provides students the opportunity to focus on their learning.

We are proud of our highly trained, effective and professional teachers, administrators and staff that do not tolerate student bullying and work hard throughout the school year to eliminate any such behavior.

The week of October 7-13, 2013 has been designated as Kansas Anti-Bullying Awareness Week! During this week each of our schools will have numerous activities scheduled that promote bully free schools. Activities and events may include speakers, school assemblies, displays, posters, discussions, announcements or other activities. We believe raising awareness is essential for our school climate and ensures bullying does not take place in our schools.

We are proud of our students and appreciate your support in eliminating bullying!

## Join the MHS Booster Club!

The Mulvane High School Booster Club would like to extend an invitation to all parents, families, friends, and staff of the MHS students to join us and participate in our numerous volunteer and fundraising events to support the academic, service, and sports programs of Mulvane High School.

Membership forms are available in the MHS office or can be downloaded from the Booster Club link on the MHS's USD 263 website. Check us out on Facebook and contact us at [mhsboosterclub@live.com](mailto:mhsboosterclub@live.com)

New this year: Each month's volunteers are entered into a drawing for a \$10 gift certificate to use for MHS Booster Club Merchandise. The winner from the previous month will be announced at the following months MHS Booster Club meeting.

Meetings are the 1st Wednesday of every month in the MHS Commons @ 7 pm .



## **Top 10% of Senior Class Honored at KS Honor Scholars Program**

Mr. Jay Ensley, Principal at Mulvane High School, announces the seniors who have been named Kansas Honor Scholars for fall 2013. These students earned this distinction by being ranked in the top 10% of their senior class. The Kansas Honor Scholars program was held Monday, September 23, at Andale High School. Following the Honor Scholars program, refreshments were served.

The following seniors are Kansas Honor Scholars:

Andrew Berry, Son of Timothy and Marilyn Berry  
Evan Boutz, son of David and Sandra Boutz  
Aubree Burkhart, daughter of Tom and Suzie Burkhart  
Katelyn Ellis, daughter of Bryan and Denise Ellis  
Kaitlin Fox, daughter of Randy and Tracey Fox  
Alex Hartman, son of Kevin and Marcia Hartman  
Peyton Hayworth, daughter of Jon and Laura Gale  
Bailey Holt, daughter of Gregory and Amber Holt  
Chance Kurtz, son of Mike and Pamela Kurtz  
Caitlin Martin, daughter of Michael and April Martin  
Clarissa North, daughter of Kristina Schultz  
Taylor Selvey, son of Darren and Veronica West  
Talon Shrubshall, son of Chris and Tonya Shrubshall  
Ashtin Songster, daughter of Mike and Pam Songster  
Kyle Spotts, son of Kurtis and Robbin Spotts

Congratulations to these MHS scholars.

## **What's Going on in the MMS and MHS Vocal Music Department**

The vocal departments of MMS and MHS have been busy getting choirs arranged, parts balanced, and new music learned. Esprit de corps performed the National Anthem at the Homecoming football game September 27th and are preparing to perform at the National Honor Society induction ceremony on October 24th.

MHS is sending Blake Overman, Lizzy Hampton, and Zach Elam to try out for the Kansas Music Educators Association District and State Choir on November 2nd.

The cast and crew of the fall musical "The Wizard of OZ" are busy preparing for major productions on November 21, 22, and 23. All choirs at both buildings are preparing music for their December concerts.

Mulvane Middle School will be having tryouts in the next couple weeks for the Pioneer League Honor Choir.

Are you in need of holiday entertainment? Call Rachel Jansen at 316-777-1183 to book Esprit de Corps to perform for your next event. Dates are limited and going fast.

Thank you for your support of fine arts in Mulvane!  
See you at the shows!

## **MHS S.A.D.D. Kansas Youth Leadership Summit**

The MHS S.A.D.D. executive board went to the Kansas Youth Leadership Summit this summer at the beginning of August. While there, they came up with an action plan for the year that will focus on the issue of underage drinking. They will be encouraging students to open up communication between themselves and their parents concerning this issue. In accordance with the action plan they drew up, they have put information out at the local liquor stores informing adults of the consequences of buying for minors and will have a table at the first football game to hand out literature. Their next order of business will be getting ready for Red Ribbon Week.



## 2014 Kansas Teacher of the Year Award

Cindy Ramsey, center, is recognized by Dale Dennis and Dr. Diane DeBacker during the 2014 Kansas Teacher of the Year Awards Banquet. The Region IV banquet was held at the Double Tree by Hilton in Wichita and 20 teachers were honored. Cindy Ramsey is a 3rd grade teacher at the Mulvane Grade School, Dale Dennis is the Deputy Commissioner of Education for the Kansas Department of Education and Dr. Diane DeBacker, is the Commissioner of Education.

Congratulations Cindy, for your hard work and dedication to education!



### Join MMS on Facebook

With great excitement the Mulvane Middle School would like to announce it now has its own Facebook page!

This will be a great way for the school to connect with families and share information.

You can find us at:  
<http://www.facebook.com/mulvanemiddleschool>

## Inspiring Excellence Award

Heidi Perkins is nominated for the Inspiring Excellence award. Mrs. Perkins teaches English/Language Arts at Mulvane High School. She encourages her students to think “outside the box” in addition to preparing students for higher-level classes after graduation. When grading, she offers constructive comments that will help students improve their writing but also points out the positive. Parents and students appreciate Heidi’s communication of upcoming senior activities and deadlines. We appreciate your contributions and efforts at MHS.



Connie Sneeringer is nominated for the Inspiring Excellence award for her support and encouragement of our special needs population. Mrs. Sneeringer does her best to meet the needs of these students in the regular education classroom but is able to make the modifications necessary so they are successful. She is the moving force behind the “Circle of Friends” program which is so important for the social interaction of students with special needs. She works to make sure that students are prepared for life after graduation by working on transition skills and setting up work programs. Connie is an asset and we are pleased she is part of the MHS staff.



## Inclement Weather

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 this 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 the 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 decisions?

- The Superintendent of Schools 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.



## **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Notice for Directory Information**

The *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Mulvane School District, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Mulvane School District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Mulvane School District to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the following information - names addresses and telephone listings - unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want Mulvane School District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing by the first day of school. Mulvane School District has designated the following information as directory information:

- |  |  |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>-Student's name</b></li><li><b>-Address</b></li><li><b>-Telephone listing</b></li><li><b>-Electronic mail address</b></li><li><b>-Photograph</b></li><li><b>-Date and place of birth</b></li><li><b>-Major field of study</b></li><li><b>-Dates of attendance</b></li><li><b>-Grade level</b></li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>-Participation in officially recognized activities and sports</b></li><li><b>-Weight and height of members of athletic teams</b></li><li><b>-Degrees, honors, and awards received</b></li><li><b>-The most recent educational agency or institution attended</b></li><li><b>-Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems that cannot be sued to access education records without a PIN, password, etc. (A student's SSN, in whole or in part, cannot be used for this purpose.)</b></li></ul> |
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These laws are: Section 9528 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (20 U.S.C. 7908) and 10 U.S.C 503(c).



## Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

PPRA affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- *Consent* before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas (“protected information survey”) if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S.

Department of Education (ED) -

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

- *Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of -*

1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

- *Inspect*, upon request and before administration or use -

1. Protected information surveys of students;
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

Mulvane School District has developed and adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. Mulvane School District will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. Mulvane School District will also directly notify, such as through U.S. mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. Mulvane School District will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution.
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

*Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:* Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202



## **Notification of Rights under FERPA For Elementary and Secondary Schools**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. These rights are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principals (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record (s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA.

Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the School to amend a record should write the School principal (or appropriate school official), clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to privacy of personally identifiable information in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has outsourced services or functions it would otherwise use its own employees to perform (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the School discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student’s enrollment or transfer. (NOTE: FERPA requires a school district to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent or student of the records request unless it states in its annual notification that it intends to forward records on request.)

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202





**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*

Mulvane USD 263

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Mulvane, KS 67110

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**Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Brad Rahe

**Board of Education**

Steve Fry, President

Richard Canfield, V. President

Dennis Springer

Travis Cottrell

Tim Snider

Gary McGuire

Ron Becker

*Board of Education meetings are held at the Mulvane*

*District Office at*

*7:00 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>*

*Monday of each month.*



**Munson Primary - 777-0151**

Deana Waltrip, Principal

**Grade School - 777-1981**

Raquel Greer, Principal

**Middle School - 777-2022**

Traci Becker, Principal

Brad Canfield, Asst. Principal/Athletic Dir.

**High School - 777-1183**

Jay Ensley, Principal

Cathi Wilson, Asst. Principal

Doug Evers, Asst. Principal/Athletic Dir.

**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/Safety - 777-0501**

Daniel Fenn, Director

**Food Service/Maintenance - 777-3003**

Richard Hampton, Director

**Technology - 777-1102**

Thomas Schmitz, Director

**Wildcat Pride edited by:** Angela Sagely

*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](mailto:asagely@usd263.k12.ks.us)*

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