

USD 467 Community Newsletter

March 24, 2009

Wichita County Public Schools

District Office
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RB Stewart Elementary
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Leoti, Kansas 67861
(620) 375-2314

Wichita Co. Junior High
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Leoti, Kansas 67861
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Wichita Co. High School
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Leoti, Kansas 67861
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Dear USD 467 Community,

Please take a few minutes to read our community newsletter. We hope the information is helpful and informative. Thank you for supporting your community schools and thank you to all who have contributed to this effort. Feel free to contact us with ideas and comments!

From the Superintendent-

*Dear Wichita County
Community,*

There has been a lot of news regarding the state budget and its effect on our local schools. We did have a state required budget cut of \$29,000 effective this budget year. With our loss of student enrollment from 3 years ago catching up to us also at \$64,000, and the state cut already put in place, we look to have a total cut of \$93-100,000 to cut from next year's budget. We are still hearing of the state legislature decreasing our budget by another \$29,000 for 2009-2010 but won't know until they finish the deliberations. All this comes with the hope of

Parent-Teacher's Conferences This Week

RBSES Parent Teacher Conferences will be on Tuesday, March 24 from 4:30 to 8:30pm and on Thursday, March 26 from 6:00 to 9:00pm.

RBSES, WCJH, WCHS Thursday March 26 from 6:00 to 9:00pm

WCJH and WCHS Friday March 27 from 8:00am to 12:00noon.

Parent-Teacher conferences on Thursday evening at WCHS, March 26, Mrs. Kreutzer and Mr. Higgins will meet with any interested 8th grade students and their parents for transitional information. Times scheduled are from 6:30pm to 7:00pm and from 7:30pm to 8:00pm.

Wichita County School Facility Challenge Progress

Thank you for all the phone calls, visits to our office to chat, and attendance at our facility input meetings. Your contributions towards solving our community schools facility challenges have been extremely helpful and appreciated.

Currently, the Board of Education is working to incorporate

the federal stimulus budget coming through and no further loss of students so we don't have to make any deeper budget cuts.

Over the past few years, your local Board of Education has made the tough decisions to reduce the district's budget so we can have a financially solid school district. Other school districts across the state, some close to us, have not been so fortunate and are facing much more difficult times. In some cases those schools may be forced to close or consolidate, which in effect means they lose their local attendance centers.

With the current economic challenges, and unknown financial future, we in the Wichita County school system continue to adjust and plan.

*Yours in Education,
Dr. Jim Hardy*

!For Your Calendar!

The Tribe will be holding a WCHS Winter sports and activities banquet on **March 28th at 7:00pm** at the community building with a pot luck. Join the Tribe in honoring the basketball and wrestling teams, cheerleaders, and Scholar's Bowl, and Science Olympiad teams.

your ideas into the community's plan. The goal is to have a plan that meets your expectations, honors the community, and meets the needs of our students so we can have a healthy school system for the future of Wichita County.

Of course, not every idea could be included but there were some very consistent concepts that the community wanted and appreciated:

- ✓ Continue to use the current middle school building and make it a viable facility
- ✓ Make more efficient use of the current high school
- ✓ Instead of building a big gym, build a grade school PE facility that can also be used for practices, junior varsity games and community recreation
- ✓ Make our buildings energy efficient to dramatically reduce the annual utility cost of \$212,000

The Board of Education is using March and early April as a time to work out the details of the plan. Our current thought is to use April to have a series of community meetings at the district office so you can see the facilities plan and have any questions answered. We will also have an open house in May with our Architect Leland Gray to get more technical details about the facilities.

As we go through the process of meeting the long term facility needs of our community schools, please feel free to contact us if you have concerns or questions.

Junior High Gym Repair Progress

The most recent progress with the Junior High Gym repair work includes painting and concrete work. Steel beams to attach the roof to the structure are being fabricated and are expected to be delivered at the end of
March

Thank you!

- **Thank you to WCHS Booster Club** for sponsoring the athletic/activities banquets.
- **Thanks to Mrs. Deb West** for promoting the Rescue Seminar concept at the high school. Rescue Seminar is for those students who need extra help trying to keep off the ineligible list. She also spends time each Monday organizing the list of students to work with the staff after school. Thanks too, to the staff who give their time after school working with these students to help make them successful!!
- **Thank you to all the teachers, paraprofessionals, and parents** that supported the students during state testing.

RB Stewart Grade School and Wichita County Junior High

The RBSES Literacy Committee will be sponsoring the “Pig Out on Books” literacy event on Thursday, April 2 from 5:30 to 7:00 at RBSES. The event will be for first grade students and their parents. Students will rotate through different learning stations and enjoy a “piggy” snack.

RBSES fourth graders have been invited to attend the Shriner’s Circus in Salina on Saturday, April 18th. USD #467 will provide the transportation.

February was “Healthy Living” month at RBSES. Activities included: encouragement of milk break, a healthy snack cart, and daily “brain breaks”. Several classes studied nutrition and exercise throughout the month.

The fourth and fifth graders are done with Math and Reading State Assessments. The third grade has the Reading Assessment to finish up. The fifth graders will be completing a Writing Assessment next week. The fourth graders will be taking the Science Assessment the week of April 6th. The teachers are very pleased with the effort and achievement of the students!

It is obvious that the maintenance crew worked through “break”; the buildings and grounds look great! Thank you.

Mrs. Engel and Mrs. Budde, thank you for covering early morning gym duty.

The students enjoyed Mrs. Conard’s students coming over to read for Dr. Seuss’s birthday. The teachers and students really appreciate this special treat.

WCJHS 6th graders have completed both Reading and Math State Assessments. The students worked very hard and as a result preliminary scores are excellent. Congratulations Mrs. Carpenter and Mrs. Wells. The 7th and 8th graders will continue testing through April 22. Thank you to all the teachers, paraprofessionals, and parents that help prepare the students for the assessments.

WCJHS wrestlers, again, did very well at the league tournament. The team placed second with 3 champions, 4 second place finishers, 2 third

WCHS News!

The high school will be taking their state assessments beginning on April 22.

During Parent-Teacher conferences on Thursday evening, March 26, Mrs. Kreutzer and Mr. Higgins will meet with any interested 8th grade students and their parents for transitional information. Times scheduled are from 6:30 to 7:00 and from 7:30 to 8:00.

The high school spring sports season is in full swing starting at the end of March. The baseball team travels to Ellis on the 27th and track is at Tribune on the 31st. Then the season really gets busy! If you don't have a copy of the district calendar, stop by the office and we'll be sure to get you a copy. The office is open daily from 7:30 until 4:00.

The High School Forensics team will be hosting an invitational tournament on Saturday, March 28, beginning at 8:00 am. Spectators are welcome!

place finishers, and 2 fourth place finishers. Coaches Brown and Niswonger have prepared the wrestlers well!

Track practice began on March 23. There are forty tracksters. Coaches this year are Head Coach Bridgette Carpenter and Coach Kevin Clark.

Congratulations to:

Congratulations to Watson McKinney for being selected to the Class 2A Honorable Mention basketball team by the Topeka Capitol-Journal.

Our regional and state piano competition students: Naomi Brandt, Meghan Burch, Kayla Graff, and Sarah Ridder

All State Honor Choir students: Shaley White, Allison Miller, Jordon Fisher, Taylor Angeles, and Nicole Huber

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For more up to date school news, stories, and pictures, please subscribe to the Leoti Standard. Thanks to Pat and Leslie for their great coverage of our community schools!!!!

"Continuing Our Tradition of Excellence in Education."