

USD 467 Community Newsletter

October 27, 2008

Wichita County Public Schools

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Leoti, Kansas 67861
(620) 375-4677

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

Wichita Co. Junior High
700 West Broadway
Leoti, Kansas 67861
(620) 375-2219

Wichita Co. High School
800 West Broadway
Leoti, Kansas 67861
(620) 375-2213

Dear USD 467 Community,

Please take a few minutes to read our community newsletter. This is our first attempt and we hope the information is helpful. 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-

A recent article in the "Schools for Quality Education" newsletter addressed the difference between rural and city school districts and what it takes for success. A study found that community involvement and the school district's commitment to student excellence were the determining factors in whether a rural school was high or low achieving, and the factors were not exclusive of each other. Urban area school districts might have a university to call upon, or major automobile or aeronautics industries to sponsor schools. In the rural areas, we have community minded business people, and we have each other. USD 467 has a reputation of excellence in academics. Our students have the opportunity to be well prepared for their future endeavors. This is an effort that is becoming more challenging each year with state testing requirements, changing community dynamics, and unfunded state and national mandates. The only way we can keep a quality school is

TextCaster comes to USD 467!

In the very near future, parents, students and patrons will have the opportunity to receive text messages pertaining to events happening in the schools in Wichita County. Very soon, thanks to the generosity of Western State Bank, anyone with a cell phone and text capabilities can go to the Wichita County school web site (<http://leoti.org>) and enroll in the program. Western State Bank is sponsoring this service to the district and there is no cost to sign up and use the service. The only cost to the user is if their personal cell phone plan has a cost for text messaging.

TextCaster is a service that lets schools send important information in the form of text messages to cell phones, wireless PDA's and pagers to anyone who opts in. Wichita County USD 467 will be able to instantaneously notify those subscribed if school has been cancelled due to weather or emergency conditions, send reminders out for school or sporting events, and many other possibilities. For example, if the junior high basketball team will be returning later than originally scheduled, those parents can be notified using TextCaster so they can plan to pick-up their student when the bus arrives.

Again, a big Thank You goes out to everyone at Western State Bank for making this service possible to the Wichita County schools!! If you like

everyone working together. At the same time the health of a rural community is closely tied to business, employment, health care, quality of life, and yes to the quality of the local schools.

As we move forward to keep Wichita County a great place to work, live, and raise kids, we in USD 467 are proud to do our part, and are appreciative of a community that supports our efforts as well.

*Respectfully,
Dr. Jim Hardy*

**Would you like to help our students learn?
We have Paraprofessional positions open in the following areas:**

Paraprofessionals are paid employees who work directly with students to help them with their academic success.

-Grade School High Plains Special Education Paraprofessional in Wichita County

Please contact the USD 467 District Office at 375-4677 if you are interested.

What is the WCHS Booster Club?

how this will keep you better informed of school happenings, please give them a thank you of your own.

2008-2009 Enrollment Numbers

-Student Headcount Each year on September 20, Kansas State Department of Education requires each school district to determine the number of students enrolled on that date. This number is used for all funding purposes. This year, because September 20th was on a Saturday, the count date was September 22nd. For school year 2008-2009, our head count for funding purposes was down .5 students, but up 11 students who attend our schools. How can this be? Although the state encourages all schools to have full time kindergarten, they only fund those students at .5 per student. Below, the numbers are listed per class. If you would like more information on our enrollment figures please feel free to contact the superintendent. Coming up in the next USD 467 newsletter we will explain the state funding formula.

Grade	Enrollment Headcount	For State Enrollment
Kindergarten	48	29
1 st Grade	25	25
2 nd Grade	28	28
3 rd Grade	37	37
4 th Grade	33	33
5 th Grade	30	30
6 th Grade	37	37
7 th Grade	38	38
8 th Grade	31	31
9 th Grade	33	33
10 th Grade	29	29
11 th Grade	32	32
12 th Grade	29	28.6
Special Ed 3 & 4 yr.	9	4.5

4 year old at-risk	22	11
Total	461	426.1

Can you sense the return of Indian Pride? The flags flying downtown for all home events seem to be creating an atmosphere. Our WCHS Booster Club- *The Tribe*, used some of its funds and received grant money from the Wichita County Community Foundation to pay for the project. The Tribe is promoting all WCHS Kansas State High School Activities Association sports and activities which include sports, band, choir, forensics and scholar's bowl. The Tribe will be sponsoring a formal meal prior to the upcoming high school musical with a choice of ribeye steak or grilled chicken breast on the menu.

To join the Booster Club and be a part of this worthy cause, please contact Theresa Wilke, Aimee Burch, or any of the Booster Club members. Look for more exciting things to happen as a result of Indian Pride and the generosity of our community.

Students Perform at Senior Citizen Luncheon

Each month, some of our students entertain our seniors at the Senior Citizens' luncheon at the Atkinson Senior Center. Special thank you to our students who have performed so far this year:

- September: Trinity Graff**
- October: 6th Grade Singers, under the direction of music teacher Mr. Brockmeier.**

Also, special thanks to Mrs. Bishop, our grade school music teacher and our grade school student drummers for their fun performance at halftime of the last home football game.

Bui l di ng News!!!!

RBSES/WCJH Parents:

- ✓ Mrs. McKinney would like to thank parents for sending written excuse notes whenever their children are absent. The notes make it possible to count students excused when absent which is very important as attendance is one of the measures for reaching AYP.
- ✓ We would also like to remind parents that animals may not be brought to school without permission from both the teacher and the office. This is simply a health measure to protect all students.
- ✓ Thank you to all our fall athletic coaches and all our volunteers such as the line judges at volleyball, announcers, and chain gang at football and the many other great folks for your support.

WCHS News!

The WCHS Choral Department is hard at work preparing our fall musical presentation, *Rodger's and Hammerstein's Cinderella*. Performances will take place on Friday and Saturday, November 14th and 15th at the WCHS auditorium.

We are thrilled to announce the addition of a dinner prior to the Friday night performance, and a dessert bar that will follow the Saturday night performance. The *Tribe Booster Club* is sponsoring the meal and dessert bar and all proceeds will return to the WCHS Musical Fund!

Tickets will be available from WCHS choir members or through the WCHS office. Ticket prices are as follows:

Steak Dinner and Musical \$20.00

Grilled Chicken Dinner and Musical \$15.00

Musical Ticket Only: \$5.00

Dessert Bar: Free Will Offering

We look forward to seeing you all for a great night of theatre! The students have put in a lot of hard work, and we appreciate all of your support!!

WCJHS

- ❖ Students look forward to Wednesday afternoons. Not only is the week half over but these afternoons are devoted to enrichment activities. Students have an opportunity to learn about nutrition, computers, and photography. The students produce a school newspaper every four weeks that is a "must read". The seventh and eighth graders

RB STEWART ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- ❖ Students are again enjoying Art classes sponsored by a grant provided by the Finnup Foundation through our local Art Alliance. Martha Meyers is the instructor this year. Projects completed so far include the artwork displayed in the hallway near the library. Other projects include weaving, watercolors, texturing and symmetry. If you get an opportunity please come see the students' art.
- ❖ This fall, the theme of the R.B S.E.S. library has been the Election Process. Students have been learning about this process through a website called VoteForBooks.com. In January 2008, our students and students across the United States voted for their all-time favorite picture and chapter book and their choices were sent in to the website. On May 1, the website announced the top eight candidates in each category. The eight books in each category then became a summer reading list for the students if they had not read these books. Top 2 picture books—Green Eggs & Ham vs. The Polar Express; Top 2 chapter books for young readers—Diary of a Wimpy Kid vs. Charlotte's Web; Top 2 series for young readers—Goosebumps vs. Captain Underpants; Top 2 series for older readers—Harry Potter vs. Little House on the Prairie. On November 4, Election Day, the votes will be tallied.
- ❖ **First graders** have been learning about bats, snakes, and owls.
Written by Mrs. Baker's Class: Here are some of the things they have learned about snakes and owls. Snakes are reptiles and cold blooded. They are the same temperatures as the air around them. Some are fast, some are poisonous, and some bite. They grow new skins. They eat mice, lizards, toads, insects and eggs! When they move, some snakes push their heads forward, and then pull up the rest of their bodies. Owls are nocturnal. They make a "whooping" noise. They live in trees or underground. They have sharp claws called talons. They can turn their heads around and see behind their backs. They have great hearing and hunt at night.
Written by Mrs. Tankersley's First Grade Class: Bats can see at night. They can't swim, but some catch fish. Vampire bats don't really turn into vampires. They don't suck human's blood, but cattle's blood. Vampire bats don't live in Leoti, but can live in Mexico and Argentina. Bats use echolocation to find their way in the dark. Bats hang by their feet to sleep. Fruit bats eat fruit. They hang upside down and eat the fruit. Some bats eat insects. A brown bat can eat 600 insects per hour. Owls eat bats. Bats can

participate in Science Fair which helps the students to learn the scientific process and new information pertaining to their individual projects.

- ❖ Healthy Kids Dance-A-Thon November 21st 8:00pm at the Wichita County Community Building. WCJHS is hosting its first annual healthy fundraiser, Dance for Health. Most of the funds raised will be used to purchase equipment and games that WCJHS students will use to stay active.

What is English as a Second Language (ESL)

One of several state and federal initiatives that USD 467, and many schools in Kansas participates, is English as a Second Language (ESL). Our teachers take classes (which the district reimburses) to become ESL certified. This enables teachers to use teaching strategies to help students learn as they transition to becoming proficient at using English as a primary language. Our district also receives excellent funding based on the number of ESL students in the classes of each teacher who is ESL certified. Our goal is for each teacher to be ESL certified. The test that the teachers must take is challenging and we are proud of those who are helping to better meet our student's needs.

fly. There are many different kinds of bats. They can fly 60 miles per hour. We are very excited to know all these things about bats.

- ❖ On Friday October 24th, first graders went to the Garden City Zoo for a presentation on bats, owls, and snakes. They looked forward to learning even more about bats, owls, and snakes!

Helpful News From the City of Leoti:

One Week Community Fall Clean Up

The City of Leoti Governing Body and employees continue their commitment to provide City-Wide Beautification opportunities by offering sanitation collection, removal and disposal of items at no charge.

Fall Cleanup set for the week of November 3-7 is fast approaching. You may have read information provided in the City's Corner of the Leoti Standard or noticed posters situated in public places.

Take note that the week long disposal of items at no charge does not follow the normal sanitation schedule. Items **ARE NOT** picked up on your regular sanitation service weekday. The cleanup *will be in full swing all week allowing us to take trailer loads of like items* to the County dump. **We ask that all items be placed near the street curb or in the alley by 8 a.m. on Monday, November 3rd AT THE VERY LATEST.** Thanks in advance for all your cooperation!

In order to accommodate community needs **AND** keep to the one week schedule set aside for these efforts, participation guidelines were put in place a couple of years ago. This has allowed the city to meet the challenge of "**Getting It All Done In One Week**". Meeting that challenge has required cooperation between the City of Leoti employees and residents. Your anticipation of semi-annual cleanups and the appreciation expressed afterwards lets us know that beautification opportunities are always welcomed.

Continue to separate items into the following categories: metal, wood, cement and trees. Remember that these sorting requirements are aimed at increasing efficiency and shortening project completion time. Since yard waste disposal is a paid service, it is excluded.

When possible, call City Hall at 375-2341 to make us aware of items placed at your curb or in your alley for disposal. This takes the guess work out for the city and saves valuable time for all participants. Your willingness to take time out of your busy schedule to report or clearly mark items placed out for pickup is appreciated.

Bag lighter items; such as paper goods, so they do not blow around town. Place items in your dumpster which can normally be disposed of when possible. This enables the city to handle those items through the regular sanitation route.

<p>Did you know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ We retain 5% of what we hear,○ We retain 10% of what we read,○ We retain 20% of audio-visual presentations,○ We retain 30% of demonstrations,○ We retain 50% of what we discuss,○ We retain 75% of what we practice by doing,○ We retain 90% of what we teach others.	<p>Latex paint may be disposed of without any kind of processing. Oil based paint must be dried before disposal. Oil based paint must be spread on cardboard or plastic sheeting and allowed to dry before disposal. It can then be disposed of as solid waste. Chemical containers must be triple rinsed before disposal. If you have any questions concerning what can be disposed of in the County dump, you may contact landfill personnel at 375-5005, (620) 874-5429 or (620) 874-2839.</p> <p>Thanks again for your cooperation, which makes it possible for us to make special arrangements and accommodate any special needs while “Getting It All Done In One Week”.</p>
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For more up to date school news, stories, and pictures, please subscribe to the Leoti Standard. Thank you to Pat and Leslie for their great coverage of our community schools!!!!

“Continuing Our Tradition of Excellence in Education.”