

Hello again and greetings from USD 467!

First, this week I'd like to remind everyone of the importance of the safety of the students going to and from school each day. There are crosswalks and crossing guards at both ends of the school block that control traffic on the highway. Remember, if a crossing guard is in the middle of the highway with their Stop sign displayed, there are children crossing the street. Already this year we have had two near tragedies where a driver entered the crosswalk while the crossing guard was present and the children crossing. Fortunately the guard was able to keep the children and themselves from harm. The busiest time is at the end of the day, right at 3:30 and lasts about 15 minutes. So please be aware there are our children crossing the highway every day, and watch and obey the crossing guards. The children's safety is far more important than what you are doing. PLEASE!

Recently, the Wichita County chapter of the National Honor Society inducted its newest members into the group. Six juniors fulfilled the requirements to become members, which include outstanding skills in leadership, service, character and scholarship. New inductees include Parker Binns, Gabe Hernandez, Isabel Penaran, Johanna Ridder, David Romero and David Valencia. These new NHS inductees join current members Nicole Biermann, Brionney Bocanegra, Kaiya Gerstberger, Ronald Michel-Lemus and Lane Wells. Their sponsor is Mrs. Julie Conard. This is a service organization, so throughout the year you will see these NHS members are active in the school and throughout the community. Congratulations to all eleven members!

Last time I shared with you that the Board of Education is taking steps to be proactive in the maintenance and updates of the district buildings. Along with that part of keeping the district facilities up-to-date, the board has given the mission to a group of teachers and administrators to survey staff to help determine what technology and skill sets need to be improved upon in the district. Teachers from each building, the district Director of Information Services, a board member and the three administrators have met and will continue to meet and review the data from the teacher survey to help set priorities for equipment and software recommendations. Those recommendations will then be discussed by the board to help determine the best direction to take so we can make our students as prepared as possible when they graduate and go on to a post-secondary school or join the workforce. The decision to survey patrons has not been made yet, but if you have thoughts or suggestions, please contact one of the administrators. While many directions have been discussed, having input from a different perspective is welcome. Ultimately it will be a board decision and having several options is benefit.

By now you have heard Leoti is part of the Workwell Kansas community grant program sponsored through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas. There are seven pathways within this grant, and the school is one of those pathways. There is a wellness committee made up of school personnel and members of the AIM Coalition. The committee meets monthly and have been approved for the initial grant. That grant funded the PedNet study to determine safer routes to school for walkers and bikers. The main goal is to help the students develop healthy habits of walking or biking to

school to improve their cardio-vascular system and to help cut down the number of parents driving their kids to and from school, thereby saving the parents time and money spent on gas. You have seen and heard about and hopefully participated in the Bike to School Day. This will be the first Wednesday of every month, except for January, which will be the second Wednesday, weather permitting. However, by the number of bikes at WCES for the September Bike Day, a little drizzle didn't deter the students and adult sponsors! Wednesday, October 3rd, will be the next Bike to School Day. Encourage your children to ride their bikes to school that day! Reminder-the next Bike to School Day is next week Wednesday!!

The staff will benefit from the Pathways grant also, as the district, thanks to Bridgette Carpenter and Misty Gardner, have started a Midweek Move for Morale fitness activity. Every Wednesday, the staff will meet after the students are dismissed to take part in some physical activity designed to work their cardio-vascular systems! Other activities are available to staff during their lunch or plan times like spending time walking on the Jane Baker Memorial Walking track at WCES. We also have a group of staff and non-staff who meet on Wednesdays at WCES for Zoomba! They meet in the downstairs computer lab from 7:30 to 8:30 in the evening and if you are interested in participating please come and take part!

The wellness committee is also working on completing applications for two additional grants, one for Physical Activity Implementation in the buildings and one for Nutrition Awareness. The Physical Activity grant will go to help fund additional PE equipment for all levels, possibly a Disk Golf course and, hopefully, a basketball goal and slab the Kindergartners can call their own. The Nutrition Awareness grant will be a little more challenging in that we will need to take a close look at the current district wellness policies and see if and how we can modify them to help facilitate the application. One area this grant emphasizes is being able to utilize locally produced products for our school lunch program. We can accomplish this by updating and expanding the Vocational Agriculture greenhouse. A few smaller area schools have area ranchers that take turns to donate beef to the schools; this helps the schools in procuring local products, save them money on purchasing food, and knowing they are getting outstanding food to serve the students! USD 467 has not pursued this in the past as all the parents and patrons of the district generously support the student fund raisers and all of the schools activities, from athletic events to the annual Musical to Scholar's Bowl meets and everything in between. We are indeed fortunate to be a part of this outstanding Wichita County school community!!

Friday of next week, October 5th, is Homecoming for the Wichita County High School Indians with the parade downtown at 3:00, pep rally at the 4-way stop, the annual Security State Bank tailgate at 6:00, and kick-off at 7:00 against the St. Francis Indians. Show your Indian Spirit by attending the homecoming events!

The Junior High Braves continue to add "W"'s to their records as the A, B and C Volleyball teams and the football team defeated the Jackrabbits from Tribune on Thursday. Even the nasty wind and rain couldn't keep the Braves from earning

victories. The High School Indian football team traveled to Hoxie Friday to take on the #1 State ranked Hoxie Indians in a battle of unbeaten teams. The Indians didn't win, but they played a great game and gave Hoxie all they wanted! Also, on Saturday, the Junior and Senior High Volleyball teams all came away undefeated! Congratulations to all!

If you haven't driven by the Junior-Senior High by the gym entrance then you haven't seen the new fence decoration-a black and red arrow head! There will be more designs appearing. These decorations were funded by the classes of 2017 & 2018! Thanks for their school spirit!

Thank you for taking the time to read this. If you have specific questions or want more information about what's happening in the buildings or district, don't hesitate to contact Lori Maxwell, WCES Principal, at 375-2314, Delbert Schmidt, WCJSHS Principal, at 375-2213, or me at 375-4677. Thanks!

Keith Higgins