

In Black & White

Volume 32 . Issue 3

December 2013

A Publication of USD 376

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SGS Room Parties

Christmas room parties will be held on Friday, December 20th. Room party times may vary from class to class, so check with your child's teacher or the party coordinator for more details.

From Your Superintendent Dr. Fred Dierksen

The recent adverse weather creates a feel that more tricky weather is surely on its way. That means the difficult choice to have school or not is a part of the weather scenario. As always, I will try to provide the best decision possible, knowing it is never an easy choice. The process involves many factors including, gathering related information by checking local weather reports, forecasts, etc. Then driving roads and routes and also receiving input from outlying patrons as well as other school officials in the area. Then there must be enough time to notify all the involved people (custodians, cooks, bus drivers, administrators, teachers, media and patrons).

Once the decision has been made and the regular routine is going to be altered we use several methods to get the word out. Our school district subscribes to a notification system that contacts all families in a matter of seconds. It is known as Alert Now. When a family enrolls they fill out a form and choose the phone number for method of notification. If you do not think you are on that list, contact the high school office at 278-2171 and enroll.



Notice is also given to all local media sources including KAKE-10, KSNW-3 and KWCH-12. All area radio stations are called as well. Our web page, www.usd376.com, also has a cancellation tab that is available to check.

Please know that safety is the paramount consideration. While I realize kids, young and old, enjoy a day off from school almost as much as unwrapping presents, I am a firm believer that we are safer at school and it is better for us. Contrary to some beliefs, I will not have school at all-costs but, I do like to be here when possible.

One last thing, it is impossible to cover the entire area. If there is a situation you do not feel comfortable with, by all means, go with your instinct and don't send your child to school. It is entirely possible that one area has far different conditions that were not discovered. Better safe than sorry. That being said, I hope this has been helpful to you and if you ever have a question about this or any other matter, do not hesitate to call me at 620-278-3621, ext. 2203 or 620-278-6097.

Thank you for your understanding concerning this relevant matter.

SHS Science News by: Dan Whisler

On Tuesday, Nov. 12, during our seminar period Mr. Bruce Graham, Director of the Wind Energy Program at Cloud County Community College gave a presentation to all of the Environmental Science students. Mr. Graham addressed the challenges that utility companies face in working to meet demands in the most economical way possible and he explained the role wind energy now plays in helping to meet this demand. Bruce also shared the career opportunities that are available in the wind energy industry and explained the two year program CCCC offers to train wind technicians.

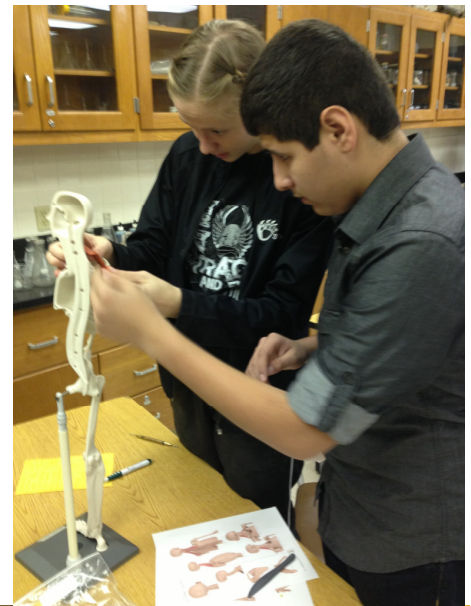


Attached is a picture of Bruce demonstrating some of the safety equipment used by wind technicians when they are servicing the wind turbines and then showing one

of the demonstrations he did for the group. In this demonstration he used a Tesla coil to pass the voltage through the student volunteers to light up the light bulb. Helping with the demonstration are: (L to R) Caleb Hendricks, Max Fulbright, Will Dutton, and Kaleab Wilson.



In other science news, the Anatomy & Physiology classes now have 6 new Anatomy in Clay MANIKENS to use to build the various systems in class! Each MANIKEN can be separated in half to give us 12 work stations, so each pair of students now has a half they will be working with as we build system-by-system. Shown adding their first muscles are Sydney Wilson and Alex Veliz. A big "Thank you!" to Clelia McCrory, Susan Sankey, and the Rice County Healthcare Foundation for making this project possible for our students! Also attached a picture of the MANIKEN Dan Whisler built at the two-day training hosted at ESSDACK earlier in November.



Counselor's Corner by: Cheryl DeWerff

Seniors--Applications for admissions should be done by now and you should be close to making a decision where you want to attend school. Continue to apply for scholarships. Watch for deadlines. You will need to fill out the FAFSA (the federal financial aid form) once you and your parents have tax information. When you fill out the FAFSA, you are applying for the PELL Grant, loan programs, and work study. We have a financial aid night here at the school January 13, 2014 at 7:00 pm. The deadline for the FAFSA is usually March 1, 2014, but check with the school you plan to

attend to be sure. Some schools may also want you to fill out housing contracts early to live in the dorm. check with your school.

Juniors--For students who are four your college bound, you need to take the ACT this year. The next test is February 8, 2014 and the registration deadline is January 10, 2014. Go to www.actstudent.org to register. You can also check other dates for the test at this site. Students also have two days for visits. Check with me to schedule them. Remember you

need to plan two weeks in advance and fill out paperwork and turn it

in a week before you go.

Sophomores--PLAN scores have arrived and students have them. Check with your student to see how they did.

Freshmen--We have finished conferences and talked about classes for next year. If you have any questions, please contact me.

SHS Band News by: Larry Brownlee

The Sterling High School Concert Band is preparing for their performance at the Kansas Music Educators' State Convention at Century II in Wichita on Friday, February 28. The SHS band was selected to perform at the convention, along with three other high school bands from across the state. This is a great honor for our band. Only the premier programs in the state get to perform at the convention. The other bands selected to perform this year are: Smoky Valley, a 4A school; Newton, a 5A school; and Olatha South, a 6A school. In addition, two college bands were selected to perform, Friends University and the University of Kansas Symphonic Band. The concert is free to the public, but you must obtain a ticket to be admitted. Tickets are available in the connecting lobby between Century II and the Hyatt Hotel on the morning of the performance. The Sterling Band will perform at 8:00 AM, Feb. 28.



SHS Yearbooks for Sale

Order your SHS yearbook BEFORE Christmas break and save \$10!! Yearbooks will be sold for \$40 each prior to Christmas break. After break, the price will be \$50. Save some money and order today!

Yearbooks may be purchased through the SHS office. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Vogts, yearbook sponsor.

J-Teen News by: Linda Calderwood

The J-Teens have hit the road running this year by sponsoring the junior high dance. The dance was a costume party along with a jack-o-lantern contest. The entire junior high had a grand time. J-Teens have donated to three causes so far and have worked a concession stand. We have another concession stand to work in February. The girls are looking forward to February for the traditional heart sisters and crowning the King of Hearts.

New officers for this year: Katie Comley, Kelsie Boeken, Taya Wilson, Raegan Mantz, Grace Rowland, Morgan Anderson and Mia Stinemetz.



Jr. High students having fun at the dance.

J-Teen officers dressed for the occasion!

Students Learn About Veterans

During Sterling Grade School Library story time the first week of November, Principal Brennan Riffel read a book aloud and led students in grades 1-6 through an activity to teach them about the sacrifices made by our country's veterans. The children's book *America's White Table* tells the story of a girl who is learning about her uncle's service during the Vietnam War and about the sacrifices of our military personnel, including POWs (prisoners of war) and those who are MIA (missing in action).

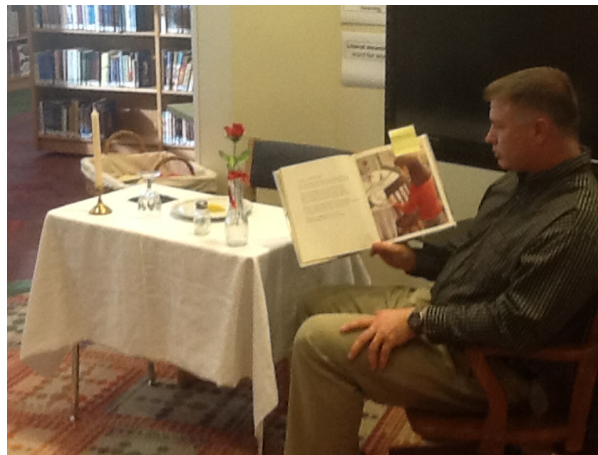
The girl in the story places special items on a table, and each object represents something that teaches children about veterans' sacrifices. "I chose this book because it does a wonderful job of introducing students to the sacrifices made by our veterans in an age-appropriate way," explained

district librarian Amy Brownlee. "For example, the empty chair at the table reminds us that many servicemen and women did not come home. The salt reminds us of the tears we shed for the people who were killed," Brownlee said. During the activity, students placed items on the table as Riffel explained their meaning.

The activity was conducted before Veteran's Day so that students could

attend the community ceremony on Nov. 11 with an understanding of the importance of the event.

During the library activity, many students were able to share the names of family members or friends who are veterans. "It helped them understand and connect to the importance of Veteran's Day," Brownlee said.



DFYIT Update by: Linda Calderwood

The DFYIT chapter has started the year off with four different community service projects. They have donated money to three causes and have collected food and money for the Goodfellows. DFYIT sponsored Red Ribbon Week in October and had a drug education presentation presented by Danna Gordon, Prevention Specialist from Preferred Family Healthcare during an all school assemble. Students were educated about the effects of drugs and alcohol on teens. They also saw how Sterling rates in Rice County and the Nation. We are proud of our standing! DFYIT officers: Hunter Hewitt President, Taryn Gillispie Vice-President, Bradon Hosman Treasure, and Kaci Wilson Secretary. We will meet again in February and start collecting community service hours. The Drug Free Festival will be in April for those members who have completed a total of 10 hours.



Goods boxed up for Rice Co. Goodfellows

Sports Parenting 101 by: Monte Ball

The weather is turning colder and the sound of basketballs bouncing on the hardwood are drifting down the hallway to my office - must be basketball season. As another season of basketball rounds into full swing I wanted to take time to send a few reminders to parents about their role in making our winter sports season a success.

SPORTSMANSHIP

The Kansas State High School Activities Association has identified a "high five" on sportsmanship for fans.

1. Help develop a community reputation for good sportsmanship.
2. Give encouragement to athletic teams and recognition of all good plays.
3. Be a role model by being positive in every manner possible.
4. Support those playing, coaching, and officiating.
5. Respect the judgment and strategy of the coach.

PRE-GAME

Tell your child to have fun.

Remind them that having fun

Does not depend on winning!

Remind your child that success is related to commitment and effort -

Do your best!

DURING THE GAME

Don't interfere with the coach -

Be willing to give them the freedom to work with your child.

Cheer good effort as well as good performance.

Don't shout instructions or criticisms.

Don't make abusive comments to athletes, parents, officials, or coaches.

POST GAME

Thank the coaches and officials for their contributions.

Look for signs that indicate how your child feels (facial expressions, tears, body language).

Listen to what your child has to say before you provide input.

Ask open-ended questions:

What part of the game did you enjoy the most/least?

What was the best/worst thing about your performance?

Were you satisfied with your effort?

What was the most important thing you learned?

What could you improve for the next game?

FINAL IMPRESSIONS

The last issue is one that leaves the final impression of the night - TRASH. This is one act that all fans can help us with. When you leave the gym what kind of impression do you leave behind? I know it seems like a small thing but I am always very impressed when I see students and fans policing their seating areas for trash before leaving the gym. Please help us demonstrate good sportsmanship when you attend contests as a STERLING fan.



SHS Scholars' Bowl Team First in Ellsworth

Following a first round loss to Smoky Valley, Sterling High School's Scholars defeated Great Bend, Beloit, and Hoisington. A fifth round loss to Southeast of Saline gave the Black Bears a 3-2 record in pool play. By placing 2nd in Pool A, Sterling advanced to the semifinals.

Sterling faced Republic County in the semifinal round. The teams were tied at 40 after the 16 questions of the round. Only on the fourth tie break question, did the Black Bears prevail by identifying "the word that as a verb that means to eat a lot and as a noun means a canyon" - gorge.

Russell was the opponent in the championship round. Once again, this round ended in a tie. By identifying the "state that is separated from New Hampshire by the Connecticut River" - Vermont, Sterling claimed the championship.

Competing for the Black Bears were Coby Comley, Henry Weiner, Edward Weiner, Brayden Hosman, Max Fulbright, and Jessica Thorpe.

After the competition, Coach Weiner commented, "Our kids made things exciting this evening. In pool play, the bounced back from an early loss.

Then in both the semi and final rounds, they came from behind to reach a tie. I am proud that our team never gave up."



Photo L to R: Coby, Edward, Jessica, Henry, Max, Brayden, Coach Dan Weiner

Scholars' Bowl Tournament Schedule 2013-2014

Tournament Location	Date
Trinity Catholic	November 6, 2013
Sterling	November 19, 2013
Ellsworth	December 2, 2013
SE of Saline	January 9, 2014
Central Plains	January 16, 2014
League (at Haven)	February 1, 2014
Regional (TBA)	February 6, 2014
State (Hopefully)	February 15, 2014

Library Video Project Utilizes iPads and Creativity

During Sterling Grade School library skills classes, students in grades 2-5 created videos promoting their school library in celebration of School Library Media Month last April. The videos were submitted to a statewide contest in May sponsored by the Kansas Association of School Librarians (KASL). The contest theme was "A School Without a Library." For grades 2, 3 and 4, students worked together to make a classroom video. Fifth graders worked in small groups to create videos using iMovie, wevideo.com, or a Puppet Pals app.

Statewide winners were announced at the state library convention in Topeka in Oct., and Sterling Grade School students won every age division. Winners were recognized at a special school-wide awards assembly Oct. 30.

Winners are:

2nd Grade - Library News Report by Mrs. Vogt's 2012-2013 class

3rd Grade - Our Library Rocks! by Mrs. Burgess's 2012-2013 class

4th Grade - A School Without a Library by Mrs. Briar's 2012-2013 class

5th Grade - What's Hot and What's Not by Alaina, Abby & Kidist

"The students loved this project," said librarian Amy Brownlee. "They got to be creative, and they loved working with the iPads. Being able to shoot and edit video on the iPad really simplified the movie-making process. This project also meets common core standards by allowing students to collaborate and publish their work online."

The videos are posted online. Links to the videos are available on the SGS Library wiki at http://sgslibrary.wikispaces.com/Video_Project

Congratulations to 5th Grade Winners!

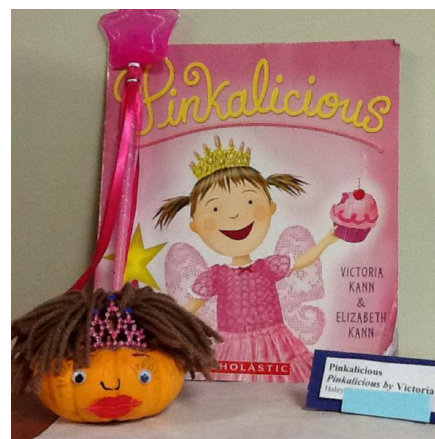


3rd Graders Share Work Online

Third graders recently completed a collaborative project with classroom teachers Sherri Beagley and Sheila Burgess and district librarian Amy Brownlee. As a class project, SGS 3rd graders decorated mini-pumpkins to look like book characters.

In the library, they added writing, speaking and a technology components to the project. First they wrote a script telling about the character and the book. Students then used an iPad app called Audioboo to record their voice reading the script and added a photo of their project.

Through the Pumpkin Book Characters project, students met Common Core standards by writing a summary, citing the title and author of a book, practicing their oral reading fluency, and publishing and sharing work online. The projects can be accessed through the school library website or by visiting the Audioboo site: <https://audioboo.fm/users/1836306/playlists>



This pumpkin book character from the book *Pinkalicious* was created by Haley, a 3rd grader at SGS.

Library Snapshot Update

Library Snapshot

1st semester

(through Dec. 6)

	Sterling Grade School Library	Sterling High School/Jr. High
Books checked out	12,051	3,360
Follett Ebooks read	146	192
AR tests passed	8,279	844 (grades 7-8)
\$ in free books earned through fall book fair	\$1,800	---
Grant funds received for library books & technology	\$1,560	\$2,400
Classes/lessons taught by library media specialist	112 classes 42 storytimes	16

Special Thanks

Special thanks to parent *Greggretta Voth* who volunteers at the Sterling Grade School Library two mornings per week. Her hard work and dedication are much appreciated! Her volunteer hours allow library staff to work on administrative projects such as grant applications, processing new books, technology training, and more.

District Librarian Extends "Thank You" to Chapter W P.E.O.

Thank you to the Sterling chapter of P.E.O. for paying to have two SHS Library benches reupholstered. The benches look much nicer and are more comfortable to sit on, and we appreciate P.E.O.'s efforts in making our school library a more attractive and comfortable environment for the many students and staff who use it daily. Linda Calderwood, P.E.O. member and para-educator at Sterling Jr. High, reupholstered the benches and also provided some updated flower arrangements and plants for the library.

P.E.O. is a women's organization that supports education in their own communities and around the world. The Sterling ladies of P.E.O. want to emphasize the importance of reading and encourage students to make it a priority in their lives.



Nurse's Notes by: Kristi Wilson

TOO LATE FOR A FLU SHOT?

You still have time to benefit from the flu shot. Ideally a flu shot should be done in September or October. However, flu season typically lasts until April. So a flu shot in December still offers protection for four months of flu season. Contact your primary care physician or the Health Department. The Rice County Health Department gives immunizations on Tuesdays 8:30-11:00 / 1:00-4:00 and on Fridays from 1:00-4:00. The phone number at the Health Departments is 620-257-2171.

How do I know if my child is too sick to go to school?

A fever: Children need to be fever free for twenty-four hours before returning to school. The twenty-four hours must be without the use of fever reducers.

Vomiting: The child must be free of vomiting for twenty-four hours before returning to school.

Rashes: Rashes of unknown origin should be seen by a doctor to rule out contagious conditions.

Diarrhea: Children should be free of diarrhea for twenty-four hours before returning to school.

Coughs: Children with mild coughs without fevers may come to school. If the child is unable to cover their cough they should stay at home.

Sore throat: Children with severe sore throats should not come to school. Children diagnosed with strep throat should not return to school until after taking antibiotics for twenty-four hours.

Earaches: As long as your child is fever free and is feeling well enough to concentrate in school, they may attend school.

Pinkeye (conjunctivitis): Pinkeye is contagious. Children with pink eye should be kept home until they have been on antibiotics for twenty-four hours.

Colds: If the cold is mild and the drainage is clear the child may attend school.

Dress for the weather: A reminder that the Grade School children will be going out to recess when the weather permits. Children should come to school everyday ready to go outside. Please send a warm coat, hat and gloves with your child. If you need assistance in getting these items for your child please contact the school nurse.
