

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

CREATED BY
SJH MEDIA TECHNOLOGY CLASS



MAY 2014



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Superintendent's News

I'm sure that many of you have heard about the recent school finance legislation that was passed recently and signed into law by your governor.

For the most part, this legislation was in response to the Supreme Court ruling about school finance. This legislation increased funding for some school districts to help reduce property taxes and make funding more "equal" across the state. USD 350 will not receive any of this new funding.

This additional state aid is being paid for in part by reducing other areas of school funding. Our share of these reductions will mean a cut of nearly \$19,000 in our operating budget next year.

This legislation does, however, give us the option of raising more money locally to make up for this loss. Of course, this puts more of a burden on the local taxpayers. There is no denying that this represents a shift in funding from the state to local municipalities.

To increase funding locally, we would use our Local Option Budget. The LOB is funded solely by a local tax levy. This part of our budget can be used for salaries, classroom supplies, or nearly any expense to operate our schools.

Increasing the Local Option Budget is very important because it gets more money into our classrooms. This would likely mean increasing the mill levy for the LOB. But, the Board of Education would have the option to decrease the mill levy in the capital outlay fund to help offset this increase.

Expenses in the capital outlay fund are much more restricted. We can only use this fund for facility improvements or major equipment purchases; we cannot use these funds for regular operating expenses. Reducing this

part of our budget to get more money into our LOB for operating expenses helps us target funds to where they are most needed.

To increase the LOB, we will need to hold a special election. The Board has called for this election to be held on June 17th. Please see our website for details about the Local Option Budget.

You may have seen the ad on TV proclaiming that Kansas "got it done" for schools. The ad describes how this new legislation gets millions more dollars into classrooms and reduces property taxes. This ad is at the very least misleading and many would call it dishonest.

This legislation does nothing to reduce property taxes for USD 350 patrons. Also, the only way that more money will get to our classrooms is to either increase the burden on local taxpayers or shift dollars from another area of our budget. While the purpose of this legislation was to address school finance equity, some policy provisions were attached to the bill and have proven to be controversial. The most prominent of these policy issues is the elimination of due process, or tenure, for teachers.

Opinions about teacher tenure vary widely. Some have argued that changes in the system were needed. However, these changes were never discussed during the legislative session but were attached to this school finance bill. Regardless of one's opinion about tenure, this does not seem to be the right way to make major policy changes in our legislature. Open discussion and honest debate should be the goal.

We have a great staff and we will not let these political issues affect our work with the students of USD 350. Our teachers did not enter the profession because of tenure. They chose this job to make an impact on kids' lives. The USD 350 Board and administration are committed to supporting effective teachers in their efforts to make a difference for students every day.

As always, if you'd like to visit about any of these topics or have other questions or concerns, I can be reached at 620-549-3564 or meyerj@usd350.com. I am proud to be a Tiger and proud to serve USD 350 with Purpose, Passion, and Pride. ~ Josh Meyer – USD 350 Superintendent

CPL HONORS BANQUET

The Central Prairie League Honors Banquet was held on April 1st, hosted by St. John High School. High schools represented included: Central Plains, Ellinwood, Kinsley, LaCrosse, Macksville, Ness City, Otis-Bison, St. John and Victoria.

After some arrival entertainment by the SJHS Choir under the direction of David Cutright, the evening began with a welcome from Mike Burgan, St. John High School Principal. The speaker for the evening was Dustin Galyon. In addition to giving high-energy keynotes and seminars, Mr. Galyon is the head men's basketball coach at Hesston College, a professional photographer, and entrepreneur. He emphasized that the students "be the best you, you can be" and "to be proud of your story and share it!"

School representatives recognized CPL honor students from each of their schools: juniors were recognized and given a small gift; seniors were recognized and given a certificate and a small gift. The honorees represented the academic top 10% in the junior and senior classes.

St. John High School Choir performed a closing song, and Josh Meyer, USD 350 Superintendent, delivered the closing remarks.

Attending the CPL Honors Banquet from St. John were:

Seniors:

- Schuyler Brown, son of Brian and Kris Brown
- Tim Easley, son of Tim and Crystal Easley
- Jessica Hanson, daughter of Troy and Angela Hanson
- Tia Smith, daughter of Danny and Tessa Smith
- Alexis Witt, daughter of Ryan and Sheila Witt
- Taylor Woodward, daughter of Stan and Gail Woodward

Juniors:

- Ashlyn Fisher, daughter of Chad and Misty Fisher
- Britani Grabast, daughter of Ken and Brenda Grabast
- Anna Stryker, daughter of Jan and Mallory Stryker



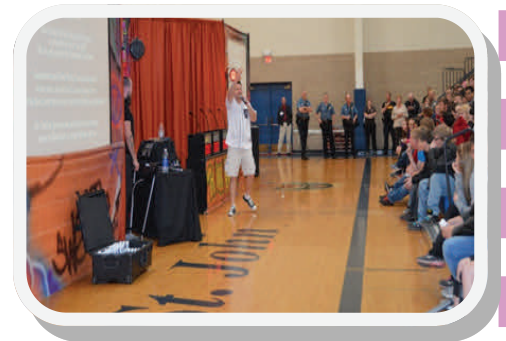
ThinkFast and be SAFE

All Stafford County high schools students got to spend an hour playing and participating in the Think Fast game show program at St. John High on April 7th. Students paired up in teams of 3 or 4 members and were given an interactive



remote to punch in their response to educated questions about traffic laws, fines, drinking & driving, texting & driving, music videos, art and famous people. Points were tallied as the student teams answered and competition winners were given a chance to win gift cards in a final game. Pledge drawings were also held for each school and those winners receive prizes donated by local business from the Stafford County towns.

As part of a no texting & driving, It Can Wait and seat belt use, S.A.F.E. campaigns driven by the St. John High (FCCLA) Family, Career and Community Leaders of America members, the Kansas Department of Transportation chose our county to host the ThinkFast interactive show.



Surveys have shown that not all students are wearing their seatbelts, they text and drive, & drink and drive. We want all students to be aware of how deadly these bad habits can be and hope to stop the abuse and save lives.



Please remember: It Can Wait and be SAFE when making smart driving choices. SJH FCCLA.



May 2014

USD 350 District Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<i>1</i> 8:00 AM HS CPL Art Contest @ BCCC / Hosted by LaCrosse 1:00 PM Varsity Golf @ Hesston 4:00 PM JH Track @ Ellinwood	<i>2</i> 3:00 PM HS Track @ BCCC	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i> Star Wars Day	<i>5</i> 1:00 PM Varsity Gold @ The Highlands 4:00 PM JV Golf @ Sterling	<i>6</i> 6:30 PM HS Band/ Choir Concert @ The Town Square LS - Class Meetings Nurses Day	<i>7</i> 12:00 PM Honors Luncheon 4:00 PM School Physicals @ Health Dept.	<i>8</i> 2:00 PM JH Track @ Kinsley	<i>9</i> 12:00 PM Grades K-6 Track Meet 4:00 PM HS Track @ Ellinwood ACT Registration Deadline for 6/14/14 Exam	<i>10</i>
Teacher Appreciation Week						
<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> 12:00 PM CPL Gold @ Kinsley 7:00 PM Board of Education Meeting	<i>13</i> 10:00 AM JH CPL Track @ St. John 6:30 PM HS All- Sports Booster Club Banquet	<i>14</i> 7:00 PM Baccalaureate Seniors Last Day - 12:00 PM Dismissal	<i>15</i> 3:00 PM HS CPL Track @ St. John 4:00 PM JV Gold @ Halstead	<i>16</i> 2:30 PM Gradua- tion Practice 7:00 PM Senior Class Night	<i>17</i> 4:00 PM HS Graduation
Home Art Show						
Children's Book Week						
<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> 7:30 PM JH Spring Concert Regional Golf @ Garden City	<i>20</i> Last Day for Stude- nts - 12:00 PM Dismissal PM Staff Workday	<i>21</i> Staff Workday	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> Regional Track @ Kiowa County	<i>24</i> 6:30 PM Alumni Banquet
<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> Memorial Day	<i>27</i> State Golf	<i>28</i> 10:30 AM CPL League Meeting @ Kinsley	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>
State Track @ Wichita						

USD #350

MAY

2014

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			1 BREAKFAST	2 BREAKFAST
			French Toast Sticks Applesauce Pineapple/Orange Juice Cereal Milk	Breakfast Bar Mixed Fruit Orange Juice Cereal Milk
			LUNCH	LUNCH
	USDA is an Equal Opportunity provider and Employer		Huntington Chicken Tossed Salad Mixed Vegetables Mixed Fruit Fresh Fruit Hot Roll Milk	Hamburger/Bun French Fries Baby Carrots Applesauce Fresh Fruit Milk
5 BREAKFAST	6 BREAKFAST	7 BREAKFAST	8 BREAKFAST	9 BREAKFAST
Pancake on a Stick Peaches Grape Juice Cereal Milk	Breakfast Pizza Pineapple Orange Juice Cereal Milk	Biscuits & Gravy Applesauce Orange/Pineapple Juice Cereal Milk	Breakfast Sliders Pears Fruit Juice Blend Cereal Milk	Banana Bread Mixed Fruit Apple Juice Cereal Milk
LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
Cowboy Cavatini Lettuce Salad Green Beans Pears French Bread Fresh Fruit Milk	Chicken Nuggets Potatoes & Gravy Broccoli Peaches Fresh Fruit Hot Roll Milk	Sloppy Joe/Bun Tater Wedges Baby Carrots Mixed Fruit Fresh Fruit Milk	Chicken Fajita Lettuce & Tomatoes Refried Beans Pineapple Fresh Fruit Milk	Sandwich Potato Chips Baby Carrots Apple Slices Cookie Milk
12 BREAKFAST	13 BREAKFAST	14 BREAKFAST	15 BREAKFAST	16 BREAKFAST
Breakfast Bites Pineapple Grape Juice Cereal Milk	Cinnamon Tastries Peaches Apple Juice Cereal Milk	Breakfast Burrito Applesauce Pineapple/Orange Juice Cereal Milk	French Toast Sticks Pears Fruit Juice Blend Cereal Milk	Breakfast Bar Mixed Fruit Orange Juice Cereal Milk
LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
Sweet & Sour Chicken Rice Pilaf Broccoli Peaches Fresh Fruit Hot Roll Milk	Hamburger Gravy Whipped Potatoes Green Beans Applesauce Fresh Fruit Hot Roll Milk	Pizza Lettuce Salad Baby Carrots Sliced Pears Fresh Fruit Birthday Cake Milk	Chicken & Noodles Whipped Potatoes Peas Pineapple Fresh Fruit Hot Roll Milk	Bar-B-Q Rib/Bun Baked Beans French Fries Mixed Fruit Fresh Fruit Milk
19 BREAKFAST	20 BREAKFAST			
Pancake on a Stick Peaches Apple Juice Cereal Milk	Banana Bread Pears Grape Juice Cereal Milk			
LUNCH	LUNCH			
Quesadilla Lettuce Salad Broccoli Applesauce Fresh Fruit Milk	Hot Dog/Bun Chips Baby Carrots Pineapple Fresh Fruit Milk			

SJH Family Studies Class Holds Mini Preschool

Oceans of Fun was the theme for this year's Family Studies preschool. Students enjoyed teaching and playing with the preschool kids with activities centered on the theme. Center activities included: Fish sugar



OFF THE SHELF

Ida Long Goodman Memorial Library

May 2014



Ida Long Goodman Memorial Library

Presents the 3rd Annual

STAR WARS

Day Celebration



Sunday, May 4th, 2014

2:30 PM Star Wars Day Proclamation by Mayor Owens

ACTIVITIES

Star Wars Bingo	Fortune Wookiee
I Spy With My Jedi	Train Your Brain
Star Wars Bowling	Wii games
Star Wars Snowflakes	Star Wars computer games

Garbage Compactor Dive

4:00 PM Award Ceremony for best costume and coloring sheet

CANTINA OFFERINGS

Hutt Dogs	Wookie Cookies	Yoda Soda
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Point of interest:

- USD 350 students have read 11,786 books as of April 28th? That is 132,928,054 words!

Bring Your Reading Material



**KEEP
CALM
DROP
EVERYTHING
AND READ**

Community and Family Members

Join Ida Long Goodman Memorial Library
and St. John Elementary students for the annual

READ-IN AROUND THE SQUARE

Friday, May 2nd

2:15 PM

Also presenting

Wichita Author and Storyteller

Donnis Slusser Crane

At 2:30 PM

Big Talk from Small Libraries



At the end of February, the library was closed so the staff could attend a conference where small libraries from across the country shared what programs had worked for them. We returned feeling good about what we do and enthused about several ideas that we were encouraged to make our own. Here are the highlights of our day-long session.

Be Novel!: Fresh, Fearless, & Affordable Library Programming was the session that probably generated the most interest with our staff. A self-guided **St. John historical walk** backed by the library was suggested. We liked the idea of sponsoring a **Good Neighbor Day** this fall to promote volunteer work and contributors to our community. For Hot Summer Nights the library may try to create a **literary scavenger hunt** for the youth. Learning about a city-wide reading competition in a larger city had us contemplating a **county-wide competition** here in Stafford county. After a meeting of the minds with our county librarians, it is going to happen (see page 4)!

There was an interesting presentation about **non-literary collections**, items other than books, magazines, newspapers and movies that could be checked out. You may have heard of Hutchinson Public Library having cake pans to lend to their patrons. Do you know that our library has board games that your family can check out? Our staff discussed a variety of things that our patrons might find useful to check out. With Quivira NWR near by, we wondered if binoculars, bird identification devices or fishing poles might be useful. How about an "Are We There Yet?" kit that families who are getting ready to travel, could check out? Also suggested was seed collections, craft tools & kits, or bike repair kits. **What do you think?**

A public library in New York shared a program they created together with the town's school libraries to encourage struggling and reluctant readers called Character Quest. That led to an idea for a **reading summer camp** at our library at the end of July or first of August using the summer reading program theme, Fizz, Boom, Read! We hope to help our elementary students get excited about reading and ready for the new school year. The wheels have been set in motion!

In an effort to better serve our library patrons, we were interested in a session about creating a **survey** to find out how to get more of our community through the library doors and what programs are needed. We are working on that now and will have a booth at Jubilee to get your input. Start thinking now. **What programs do you want your library to add? If you are not a library user now, what could the library do to bring you through our doors?**



St. John Jubilee: Celebrate Life!

Celebrate Life...Read a Good Book!



Stop by the library's booth at Jubilee. Friends of the Library are sponsoring a Meet & Greet for area authors. Be sure to buy raffle tickets for the Author Basket Giveaway. Our authors will provide a signed copy of one of their books and other reading necessities will be a part of the basket. Proceeds will go to to the library for new books.

Stafford County Reading Bingo Challenge 2014

B	I	N	G	O
<i>Really</i>	Your Choice!	REAL LIFE FIZZBIZ!	Read to children Adventure	Book Made Me a Hero
Your Choice!	<i>Historical Fiction</i>	Non-Fiction	Your Choice!	Graph paper stories
Book Made Me a Hero	Your Choice!	Attend a Library Youth Program	Read to children	Entirety or Science Fiction
Your Choice!	Non-Fiction	<i>Historical Fiction</i>	REAL LIFE FIZZBIZ!	Your Choice!
Graph paper stories	Entirety or Science Fiction	Read to children Adventure	<i>Really or Not (Yes)</i>	Your Choice!

How about challenging yourself to read more this summer? Or try reading more of a variety of books. And where's the motivation to stay on track? Read on!

Welcome to the first annual Stafford County Reading Bingo Challenge 2014. The Stafford, St. John, and Macksville librarians are a competitive bunch. They each believe the patrons at their libraries are *the most* avid readers. And they have come up with a way to settle the argument. Bingo—with a twist!

Young adults (7th grade +) and adults across Stafford County - grab a friend and sign up for the Stafford County Reading Bingo Challenge. Bingo cards with 24 reading challenges have been created and you can pick one up at your local school or public library. Get yours by May 31st. You must have a library card at your city library to participate. Join the fun while challenging yourself to read more and make your city proud!

Here are the challenges:

June: **Four-Corner Bingo**

July: **Regular Bingo** (as many as you can accomplish!)

Earning Bingos throughout June and July also qualifies you for the county-wide prize drawings at the end of the competition.

Friday, August 8, is the deadline to work towards a **Black-Out Bingo** and a chance for the grand prize(TBA).

After you Bingo, fill out the Proof of Bingo form (available at your library or online at Ida Long Goodman Memorial Library) and return it to your local library with your bingo card which enters you into the weekly drawing. A list of prizes will be posted at each library.

Stafford County teens – You have an extra added incentive to participate. Earn an invitation to a county-wide pool party by finishing a minimum of 5 books during June and July.

And about your competitive librarians...now they are arguing about the reward for the winning town or should there be task assigned to the losing cities? Mwahhhahahahah...

Macksville

Jodi Suiter
Nelda Satterlee

Stafford

Dixie Osborn
Gerry Hildebrand

St. John

Christie Snyder



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