



# LIONS ROAR

USD 405 STAFF NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 18, 2009

## From the Superintendent . . .

The Christmas season is a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon our lives both past and present. Remembering our childhood Christmas memories should assist us in understanding our students' wonderment

for the events of this season. I have been fortunate to attend all of the school Christmas programs. I have thoroughly enjoyed the wide-eyed interest of our students while they perform with their utmost ability to please their instructors and parents. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could harken back to those days to enjoy Christmas with childlike zeal? It is easy to be distracted by the events that can sidetrack us from the reasons that Christmas is



important to us. The staff of USD 405 has done a wonderful job this semester with our community's children. Examples are seen throughout our district. The work of our staff is seen every day in the classroom but was

demonstrated this semester by our assessment scores, our athletic teams, our music performances, debate teams, the high school musical, and the character education assemblies. Thank you for a job well done. I look forward to the great things that will happen next semester in our classrooms. My hope for the USD 405 staff is to enjoy your time away from school and celebrate with your family during the Christmas break.

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## Our Representatives

Jay Emler, R-Lindsborg  
[jayscott.emler@senate.ks.gov](mailto:jayscott.emler@senate.ks.gov)

Bob Bethell, R-Alden  
[bob.bethell@house.ks.gov](mailto:bob.bethell@house.ks.gov)

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## January Board of Education Meeting



The January Board of Education meeting will be held at the Frisbie Education Center (FEC) on Monday, January 11, 2010. The meeting will begin

at 5:30 p.m.

The Board of Education highlights from the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting are posted in the buildings and are on the district website ([www.usd405.com](http://www.usd405.com)) under Board of Education Minutes.

## Winter Break Timesheet Reminder

All KPERS covered classified staff receive holiday pay for Christmas Eve and Christmas, December 24 and 25 and New Year's Day, January 1.

**Wednesday, December 23 OR Monday, December 28** is also a paid holiday for 12-month employees.

Please enter the number of hours shown on your contract on your timesheet in the "Temp, Vac, Holiday, Misc." column for holidays.

## **BUSINESS OFFICE NEWS...**

### **Budget Crisis Overview**

By Gary L. Sechrist, Superintendent

I am writing this article to keep you informed of the budget crisis that USD 405 and others are experiencing. Governor Parkinson cut \$212 from the Base State Aid per Pupil (BSAPP) before the Thanksgiving Break. This amounts to \$287,000 from this year's USD 405 budget. We are fortunate that our increased enrollment will give us some assistance on this final cut. We must reduce that amount through the remainder of this fiscal year, which ends June 30, 2010. The leadership team has made some tough decisions of which the staff has had to endure. I requested that building budgets be frozen through the remainder of this school year. I appreciate the staff's willingness to abide by this mandate. You have made it much easier for the principals by assisting in this matter.

Unfortunately, we instituted some controls on transportation to assist with that particular line item. The guidelines allow for interpretation by your principals for some field trips. The twelve month hourly employees have been given the opportunity to take voluntary furloughs during Christmas break and Spring break. It appears that several of these employees will take advantage of this opportunity. A district custodian has resigned and will not be replaced. Lyons High School and Lyons Middle School will share 5 custodians. This definitely taxes an already hardworking group of individuals. I have asked the principals to look at methods to cut down utility expenses during the holiday break. Several items will be considered such as turning the setbacks to a lower temperature, turning down the temperature of the hot water heaters and unplugging any electronic devices.

Some of the most difficult decisions are yet to be made. Most experts are warning superintendents that the next two academic years may be as difficult as this year. If that is the case, I must be prepared for a worst-case scenario. The leadership team has spent numerous hours brainstorming categories for potential cuts. Items identified were tagged as a short term savings or long term savings. The items were also identified as "necessary to support student learning" or "excludes student learning." The categories include such items as: certified staff, classified-general, classified-sped, extra-curricular, extra duties, co-curricular, transportation, special education, building/facilities, equipment, federal/state programs, technology and staff development. The principals were given the task of identifying any items within these categories

specific to their buildings. The principals' next unenviable task is to prepare a spreadsheet to be presented to me that identifies savings equal to \$25,000, \$50,000 and \$75,000 in each building. It is obvious that a \$50,000 cut in one building will be much deeper than a \$50,000 cut in another building. This is a long, arduous process that needs time to develop.

The state has been tardy in making state aid payments to local districts. This has been a hardship for some districts around the state. We are being told that state aid payments will continue to be late throughout this school year. We have been able to make our local payroll. This may cause difficulty for us, but I assure you we will not miss payroll. This is one of the reasons that I have felt it necessary to freeze unnecessary spending to create some liquid assets for payroll. Decisions cannot be made without thoughtful planning. I wish that I could give you a timeline for disclosure. Plans will not be identified until more information is forthcoming from the legislature. It is imperative that you contact our state representatives and inform them of your opinions about school funding and the potential impact on student activities and learning.

### **FEC Winter Break Hours**

The Frisbie Education Center (FEC) business office will work flexible hours during Winter Break, December 21-January 1. If you would like to schedule an appointment, please call in advance (257-5196). The FEC office will be closed December 24 and 25 and January 1.

### **Upcoming 2010 Holidays**

Martin Luther King Day and Presidents' Day are designated holidays for 12-month "full-time" employees. Page 12 of the 2009-2010 Classified Handbook states: "All holidays shall be observed on the date designated by state or federal law. However, if that day is a contracted teacher day, the designated day shall not be considered a holiday, and a day of vacation will be given to the 12-month employee."

## BUSINESS OFFICE NEWS (cont.)...

### TSA Changes Reminder

Do you want to make changes to your TSA? You must contact your agent and complete the required paperwork so that it can be sent to Bay Bridge Administrators. The change must be reflected on our bill before the correction can be made on your paycheck.

**Equitable**-Jeff Bachelder 316-267-4464

**Primerica Financial Services**-Arlene Rolfs 824-6237

**Security Benefit Life**-John Webb 888-756-6670;

**Waddell and Reed**-Mary Ann Altvater 620-257-2292



Please turn in all timesheets, mileage, and reimbursement forms **BEFORE** you leave for Winter Break.

### Fuel Tickets

If you fuel a school vehicle, **please turn in gas tickets** to the FEC immediately. Be sure to write the activity you attended on your receipt. Tickets must be matched to the billing statement prior to payment.

### Inclement Weather

In the event of severe weather conditions, the following television and radio stations will be contacted:

KWCH Channel 12	KSNC Channel 03
KAKE Channel 10	KSAL-1150 AM
KFDI-1070 AM 101.3 FM	KHUT-FM 102.9
KSKU/KGGG-106.1 FM/97.1 FM	
KHMY-FM 93.1	

School closing or delayed start decisions will be made as soon as all pertinent facts have been evaluated. The notice will be issued prior to 7:00 a.m. each morning. If possible, a decision will be reached the preceding night. You will be contacted by using School Reach, the one-call phone system. **Please contact the Frisbie Education Center (FEC) if your phone number has changed.**

## Simplify—Have Your Payroll Check Deposited Automatically For You



Would you like the satisfaction of not having to worry about your paycheck getting lost in the mail or to the bank? We can help! Direct deposit forms are available at the Frisbie Education Center (FEC). You may also contact Marsha Huggans by phone at 257-5196, Ext. 123 or email her at [mhuggans@usd405.com](mailto:mhuggans@usd405.com).

## State Mileage Reimbursement Change

As stated in the Negotiated Agreement on page 23, "Employees shall be reimbursed for use of personal vehicles for approved mileage at the rate established for State of Kansas employees by the Kansas Department of Administration." We have received notification that the State mileage reimbursement amount will be lowered to \$.50 beginning January 1, 2010.

## KPERS Retirement Letters

Letters have been sent to employees who are eligible to receive full KPERS benefits at the end of the current school year. If you feel you qualify for KPERS retirement and have not received a letter, please contact Linda (Ext 125) or Jessica (Ext 153) at the Frisbie Education Center (257-5196).

You qualify for full KPERS retirement benefits if:

- you have 85 points (your age plus years of KPERS service), or
- you are 62 years old with at least 10 years of KPERS service, or
- you are 65 years old with at least 1 quarter of service.

You qualify for USD 405 retirement benefits if:

- you are currently an employee of USD 405 and
- you are eligible for full KPERS retirement benefits and
- you are a classified employee and have a minimum of 15 years of employment with USD #405 or;
- you are a certified employee and have a minimum of 12 years of employment with USD #405

Additional retirement information is found on pages 10 – 12 in the Classified Handbook, and pages 26 – 30 in the Professional Negotiations Agreement.

## **KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS NEWS...**

### *Use Your Seatbelt*

Source: *GSU Physics Department website*

In an average automobile accident a moderate amount of stretch in a seatbelt harness is a good thing. It can extend the stopping distance and reduce the average impact force on the driver. If the belt stretched 0.5 ft., for example, it would reduce the deceleration to 20 G's and the average impact force to 3200 lbs. in a 30 mph crash.

But what if you are *not* wearing your seatbelt? With no seatbelt to stop the driver in the car, the driver flies free until stopped suddenly by impact on the steering column, windshield, etc. A crash that stops the car and driver must take away all its kinetic energy. If the distance to impact is greater than 2 ft., the car will be at rest or even bouncing back when the driver strikes it at 30 mph.

*My friend Eddie's Uncle Joe heard about this truck driver who narrowly avoided a fiery wreck by plunging his truck through the guardrail and down a 100-foot cliff. If he had had his seatbelt on, he would never have been able to jump out at the last second and hang on to the guardrail.*

Maybe so...

But the work-energy principle must be satisfied in every collision, and it dictates that the work done in stopping the driver must be equal to the driver's kinetic energy. The shorter the stopping distance, the greater the impact force. And cases where the seatbelt would not lengthen your stopping distance and decrease your impact force are about as rare as this kind of accident.

Rather than making judgments about safety from anecdotes like the one above, it is wise to consider the evidence from the large database on traffic fatalities. **SEATBELTS SAVE LIVES!**

••••• **Frisbie Education Center (FEC) Staff** •••••

**620-257-5196**

**Mr. Gary L. Sechrist**

Superintendent (Ext. 124)

**Linda Brunk**

Business Manager/Clerk (Ext. 125)

**Marsha Huggans**

Treasurer/Payroll Clerk (Ext. 123)

**Mr. Mitch Neuenschwander**

RCSSC Director (Ext. 159)

## **TRANSPORTATION NEWS...**

### *Winter School Bus Safety Tips*

by Greg Konda, Transportation Director

#### *Walking to the Bus Stop*

- 1) Allow extra time to get to your bus stop.
- 2) Wear bright clothing so the bus can see you in the early morning and late evening.
- 3) Stand away from where the bus stops. Buses need extra room to stop when there is snow and ice.
- 4) Dress properly. Winter clothing, hats, and boots will keep you warm.

#### *Waiting at the Bus Stop*

- 1) Don't play in the snow while waiting for the bus. Don't throw snowballs at the bus or anyone else.
- 2) Don't slide on the snow or ice patches in driveways or on the street. You could slide under the wheel of the bus and get hurt.
- 3) Don't push or shove around the bus. Someone could fall down on the ice and get hurt.
- 4) Hands should be kept to yourself.

#### *Using School Vehicles (Cars and Buses)*

- 1) Please remember to clean the windows after each use, especially during the winter.
- 2) Ice scrapers and flashlights are either in the door panel or glove box.
- 3) Please fill the tank after each use, even if it is a short trip.
- 4) Report any mechanical problems immediately.
- 5) Clean out trash after each trip.

**Jessica Goforth**

Accounts Payable (Ext. 153)

**Tara Logan**

Superintendent's Secretary (Ext. 120)

**Susie Turner**

MIS Data Clerk (Ext. 167)