



LIONS ROAR

USD 405 STAFF NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 20, 2009



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT...

A USD 405 contingent of teachers and administration attended the Challenge Award ceremony in Salina on November 12. You can be proud to be part of the learning that was publicly acknowledged that evening. USD 405 won 7 of a possible 12 Challenge Awards in our region. This was the best percentage of any one district in the state. In fact, one of the presenters mentioned that Lyons was "cleaning up all of the hardware." I believe this to be a teacher award. This award was designed to address those schools that are achieving at levels the statisticians deem not possible. The only method for beating the odds is quality instruction.

"Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another."

Gilbert Chesterson

As I read this quote I contemplate the budget issues that are imminent. You can be proud of the teaching that you have provided to the students of USD 405. The staff of our schools has historically provided education as part of the "soul" of our society. Legislators in Topeka need to be mindful of this fact during the next legislative session. How do they wish the "soul of our society" to be positioned for our next generation of learners? I highly recommend that you contact our legislators and inform them of your opinions about school funding. Equally important, suggest to your neighbors and friends that they do the same. It will take a concentrated effort to change the opinions of the majority of our elected officials.

Our Representatives

Jay Emler, R-Lindsborg
jayscott.emler@senate.ks.gov

Bob Bethell, R-Alden
bob.bethell@house.ks.gov

Thanksgiving Break Reminder

All "KPERs covered" classified staff receive holiday pay for Thanksgiving and the day after Thanksgiving. Wednesday, November 25 is not a paid holiday. Please enter the number of hours shown on your contract on your timesheet for November 26 and 27. Twelve-month classified employees who don't work Wednesday, November 25 must use temporary leave or vacation.

Board of Education Highlights



The Board of Education Highlights from the November 9th meeting are posted in each building and on the district website under Board of Education Minutes. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will begin at 5:30 p.m. on December 14, 2009 at Central Elementary School.

BUSINESS OFFICE NEWS...

KPERS Is Not Bankrupt

Submitted by KPERS, September 2009

Recent news articles have quoted a report issued by the Center for Applied Economics at the University of Kansas calling KPERS bankrupt.

KPERS is not bankrupt. The System has more than \$10 billion in assets, enough to continue paying benefits for decades. It is important to remember that not all benefits are due at once. Most members are still working and contributing and will not retire for years. Those in retirement are paid over a lifetime.

Financial markets have seen unprecedented declines over the last year. The resulting investment losses have had a substantial, negative impact on KPERS' long-term funding outlook. While not an immediate crisis, the depth of the impact is serious. The longer we wait to fix the problem, the worse it will get.

Over the last year, we have presented information to Legislative committees about the current funding outlook and the need for a new comprehensive, cooperative solution. The KPERS Board and staff are currently working on a top-to-bottom analysis of funding, projections and options.

Benefits must equal contributions (employer and employee) plus investments minus expenses. We're looking at all these areas and plan to develop funding and benefit options for consideration by the Governor and Legislative committees this fall.

Even through this time of analysis and possible changes, members can rest assured that the benefits they've earned are dependable and guaranteed by current law.

USD 405 Maximum Meal Reimbursement Amounts

The maximum amount you will be reimbursement for qualifying meals is \$8.00/breakfast; \$10.00/lunch and \$12.50 for dinner or evening meal.

USD 405 Mileage Reimbursement Information

In most cases, you will be reimbursed mileage for the use of a personal vehicle to and from a conference or meeting, if, and only if, a school vehicle is not available. Transportation requests must be made through Greg Konda, Transportation Director (gkonda@usd405.com).

Vacation and Temporary Leave Summary

The Leave Summary that is included in your paycheck is posted through November 10. If you have questions regarding your balance, please contact Marsha Huggans by phone at 257-5196, Ext. 123 or email her at mhuggans@usd405.com.

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.

BUSINESS OFFICE NEWS (continued)...

Please HELP!



When making local purchases, please be sure to send a copy of the receipt to Jessica Goforth at the Frisbie Education Center OR give a copy to your building secretary with the following information on the receipt:

Your Signature (Legible)

Your Name (Printed)

Reason for Purchase (ie: Football, Classroom Supplies, etc.)

We are receiving statements from local vendors with tickets we have not received and are spending time tracking down these purchases. We are also receiving tickets with unreadable signatures, and without information regarding the purchase.

We appreciate your help with these purchases in the future.

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	KSKU/KGGG-106.1 FM/97.1 FM
KHUT-FM 102.9	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.

Frisbie Education Center 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)

Jessica Goforth

Accounts Payable (Ext. 153)

Tara Logan

Superintendent's Secretary (Ext. 120)

Susie Turner

MIS Data Clerk (Ext. 167)

TRANSPORTATION NEWS...

by Greg Konda, Transportation Director

Driving in Snow and Ice (Weather Channel TIPS)

The best advice for driving in bad winter weather is not to drive at all, if you can avoid it. Don't go out until the snow plows and sanding trucks have had a chance to do their work, and allow yourself extra time to reach your destination.

If you must drive in snowy conditions, make sure your car is prepared and that you know how to handle road conditions. It's helpful to practice winter driving techniques in a snowy, open parking lot, so you're familiar with how your car handles. Consult your owner's manual for tips specific to your vehicle.

Driving safely on icy roads

- Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.
- Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.
- Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.
- Keep your lights and windshield clean.
- Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
- Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.
- Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first. Even at temperatures above freezing, if the conditions are wet, you might encounter ice in shady areas or on exposed roadways like bridges.
- Don't pass snow plows and sanding trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind.
- Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.

If your rear wheels skid...

- Take your foot off the accelerator.
- Steer in the direction you want the front wheels to go. If your rear wheels are sliding left, steer left. If they're sliding right, steer right.
- If your rear wheels start sliding the other way as you recover, ease the steering wheel toward that side. You might have to steer left and right a few times to get your vehicle completely under control.
- If you have standard brakes, pump them gently.
- If you have anti-lock brakes (ABS), do not pump the brakes. Apply steady pressure to the brakes. You will feel the brakes pulse -- this is normal.

If your front wheels skid...

- Take your foot off the gas and shift to neutral, but don't try to steer immediately.
- As the wheels skid sideways, they will slow the vehicle and traction will return. As it does, steer in the direction you want to go. Then put the transmission in "drive" or release the clutch, and accelerate gently.

If you get stuck...

- Do not spin your wheels. This will only dig you in deeper.
- Turn your wheels from side to side a few times to push snow out of the way.
- Use a light touch on the gas, to ease your car out.
- Use a shovel to clear snow away from the wheels and the underside of the car.
- Pour sand, kitty litter, gravel or salt in the path of the wheels, to help get traction. Try rocking the vehicle. (Check your owner's manual first -- it can damage the transmission on some vehicles.) Shift from forward to reverse, and back again. Each time you're in gear, give a light touch on the gas until the vehicle gets going.