



LIONS ROAR

USD 405 STAFF NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 26, 2009

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT...

The students, staff and administration of USD 405-Lyons continue to be pacesetters with student learning. The recent Lyons News touting your accomplishments is a tremendous reflection on your efforts in the classroom. It has been stated by a person in Lyons respected by education, legislative and business communities that "people don't know what we have in the Lyons schools." This person has been able to observe other systems and has been most impressed with USD 405 in comparison to other districts. We don't speak highly enough of our accomplishments. USD 405 schools attained 17 "Standard of Excellence" awards this year based upon last year's state assessments. This is an astounding number of awards. Our district won numerous Challenge Awards in the district in which we were compared. I have confidence that we would have been awarded more if Park School and Lyons High School were eligible.

Our teachers must be our biggest proponents of education. Unfortunately, the budget outlook is bleak for the next several

budget years. It is absolutely necessary that teachers be willing to lobby for education funding. Without a new revenue base, massive cuts will be necessary. It is difficult for our legislators to understand the seriousness of the situation when we continue to obtain tremendous learning results. As you are aware, the continued depletion of revenue sources may affect our students' progress because of fewer educational resources. The education community in Lyons will continue to pour our heart and soul into student learning in spite of legislative neglect.

The Target Curriculum Model so extensively used during this school year will make your efforts in the future much more efficient. The building principals have reported that staff members are working extremely hard to make this process work. Visit with your building principal if you have suggestions to improve this process. I believe this alignment process will once again allow us to make the next step in student learning.

I wish to thank you for a job well done.

Our Representatives

Jay Emler, R-Lindsborg

jayscott.emler@senate.ks.gov

Bob Bethell, R-Alden

bob.bethell@house.ks.gov

Board of Education Highlights



The Board of Education Highlights from the October 12th meeting are posted in each building. The next regular meeting of the Board of

Education will begin at 5:30 p.m. on November 9, 2009 at Lyons Middle School.

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.

BUSINESS OFFICE NEWS...

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.

Dental and Vision Insurance Information

Ameritas Group is the new provider for the Dental and Vision insurance coverages effective October 1st. They are in the process of mailing out the dental policies with I.D. cards to be given to your dentist at your next visit.

Vision policies are also being mailed at this time. I.D. cards will not be issued with the vision insurance, but it will be necessary to inform your eye doctor that you are now covered through Ameritas-VSP Network.

If you do not receive your policies by next week, please call Marsha Huggans at the Frisbie Education Center.

Attention Classified Staff:

The “**Acknowledgement of Review of the Classified Staff Handbook**” form is required each year. If you haven't submitted the form, please take a few minutes to review your Handbook and submit the Acknowledgement Form to Tara Logan at the Frisbie Education Center.

Both the Classified Handbook and the Acknowledgement form are on the district website in the "Human Resources/District Forms" section.

KPERS Beneficiaries

Why name a beneficiary?

- Return of contributions and interest
- Basic group life insurance (150% of your annual salary)
- Optional group life insurance

When no beneficiary is named, benefits are paid according to law:

- Surviving spouse
- Dependent children (under 18 years old)
- Dependent parents
- Non-dependent children
- Non-dependent parents
- Estate

Scenario: You listed your spouse as your primary beneficiary. You have children who are 10, 17 and 20, but have not listed them as beneficiaries. You and your spouse die in a car accident. Your basic and optional life insurance will be divided evenly between the children who are 10 and 17 years old. The 20 year old will not receive any benefits.

Your beneficiaries are listed on your annual statement, and they can be changed any time. You may contact Linda (lbrunk@usd405.com) at the Frisbie Education Center for the necessary forms.

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)

Jessica Goforth

Accounts Payable

(Returns from Maternity Leave November 16)

Tara Logan

Superintendent's Secretary (Ext. 120)

Mr. Mitch Neuenschwander

RCSSC Director (Ext. 159)

Susie Turner

MIS Data Clerk (Ext. 167)

- Stairs present a special challenge; especially those that are taller, shorter, have a smaller tread depth, or are otherwise irregular.
- Obstructed aisles or walkways present tripping hazards or require frequent changes of direction, throwing you off balance.
- Insufficient light can make it difficult to see obstacles and notice changes in the walking surface.
- Shoes with slick soles provide insufficient traction, while platform shoes and high heels increase your vulnerability to uneven surfaces.
- Moving too fast increases the likelihood you will misjudge a step or encounter a hazard before you have a chance to notice it.
- Carrying items can both obstruct your vision and impair your balance.
- Inattention and distraction interfere with your awareness of all of these hazards and increase your risk of injury.

Well, you can't just stop walking. But there are some things you can do to reduce your risk of slipping, tripping or falling. You can adapt many of the principals of defensive driving and apply them to walking. Silly as it may sound, being a "defensive walker" can help you safely navigate many of the hazards lurking all around you!

- Scan your "road" for existing and potential hazards. Just as you do when you are driving, be aware of others, expect them to get in your way, and have an out when they do.
- Slow down to negotiate turns, corners, ice, obstacles, limited visibility and heavy traffic.
- Make sure you have adequate "tread." Some experts believe up to half of all slips and falls could be prevented through proper footwear alone!
- Use a detour whenever possible to avoid ice or wet surfaces.
- Realize that there are hazards involved in going "off road." A shortcut across the lawn or through the rocks may not be the best choice.
- Keep your mind focused on what you are doing!
- Limit your load. Make sure your load doesn't obstruct your vision. Whenever possible, use wheels of some kind so you can push or pull your load instead of carrying it.
- Maintain three points of contact on stairs or ramps by using a handrail.
- Exercise regularly to maintain strength, flexibility and balance.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION NEWS...

Received From KASB and Aurora, CO Public Schools
Slips, Trips and Falls



Most of us are very experienced walkers. After all, we've been walking almost all of our lives. So why is it that simply putting one foot in front of the other to get from place to place

results in so many injuries? After all, slips, trips and falls are a major cause of injuries both at work and away from work.

According to OSHA, they cause 15% of all accidental deaths, second only to motor vehicles. Nationally, 10% of all injuries are caused by slips, trips and falls. Admittedly, some of these injuries involve falls from ladders, buildings, or other heights. However, most of them are injuries to folks just walking from one place to another.

Why does this

happen? We all recognize that the winter months are especially hazardous due to the presence of ice and snow, but there are many other factors that contribute to slips, trips and falls:

- Loose, irregular surfaces such as gravel, shifting floor tiles, and uneven sidewalks can make it difficult to maintain your footing.
- Oil, grease and other liquids can make walking surfaces extremely slick.

TRANSPORTATION NEWS

Please Remember ...

by Greg Konda, Transportation Director



- To fill your vehicle after every trip. Each trip may be billed to a different line item.
- Remember to place the following on the receipt – name, activity, destination, vehicle #.
- Return keys and fuel cards promptly.
- Clean out trash from vehicle.

Sloppy Driving Breeds Mishaps!

by RoadTripAmerica.com

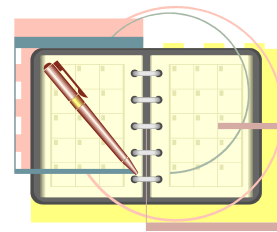


Most everyone knows the basics of the traffic laws; signaling, proper lane position for turns, turning into the proper lanes, complying with traffic signs (like "No U-Turns," "No right turn on red," etc.), driving to the right except when passing, passing across double yellow stripes, really STOPPING for stop signs, and many others. Drivers ignore them for the sake of expediency every day. We are so impatient to get about the details of our lives that we don't take the time to do it "right." One estimate I've seen is that average drivers commit 2.5 traffic violations every mile they drive! But, those pesky, nit-picky driving rules ARE important!

Here's an illustration of the concept applied to a different realm: the airport "traffic pattern." Occasionally in the news, a reporter will say that an aircraft crash happened because the airport had no air traffic controller, implying that it is simply chaos without one. But the fact is, uncontrolled airports are common in the aviation world and this isn't normally dangerous. ALL pilots learn basic rules for operating around airports - we enter and depart the area at set altitudes and at specific angles. We communicate our intentions to each other on special dedicated radio frequencies. We make turns in standard directions, either left or right, depending on the

dictates of the airport's neighborhood. We learn where the dangers lie and how to avoid them. We keep a vigilant eye out for other air traffic, and we KNOW where to look for them because they are following the same rules we are. This process works because everyone learns the same rules and we all have a stake in doing it right. The result when someone doesn't do it right is often a smoking hole stuffed with twisted, scorched metal.

Why is it important to follow all the little rules that don't seem to make much difference? Because it works the same way in the motoring world: traffic rules are in place to create the consistency and uniformity that allow us to predict with some degree of confidence what the other guy is going to do, thereby avoiding conflicts and collisions. Ignoring the rules of the road helps create the chaos you see every day. So, drive precisely, follow the rules, and watch out for the other guy!



Dates to Remember

October 27

6-12 Parent-Teacher Conf. 4:45-8:00 p.m.

October 28

PDC Meeting, 3:45 p.m. @ FEC

October 30

No School (LMS and LHS ONLY)

October 31

Halloween

November 1

Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 9

Board of Education Meeting, 5:30 p.m. @ LMS

November 9-13

Fall Athletic Buffer Week

November 13 and 14

Fall Musical @ LHS