



# LIONS ROAR

USD 405 Staff Newsletter

September 18, 2009

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT...

We have had a great start to the school year. USD 405 can be proud of the efforts that our teachers and staff provide to our local youth. I'm extremely excited about the momentum that has started with the "Target Curriculum Model" in our schools. I have heard positive comments about this course of action and congratulate you on a good start with this process. You will have a better understanding of what needs to be taught to our students so we can enjoy their continued success. Our schools have been pacesetters for many years. We have quietly weathered the AYP storm. I have witnessed throughout the district a "roll up our sleeves" attitude about providing a quality education for our students. The "main thing" in our district for numerous years has been student learning. Our teachers and staff have embraced this concept. Programs and technology that are successful in classroom work are because of a quality teacher in front of the classroom. We have relied on

teacher quality rather than programs for many years. This has served our students well. The quality of our staff will get us through this economic downturn in the absence of potential technology and program purchases. It appears at this writing that our enrollment has increased, which is good news for our community and schools. September 21 is the official day for counting students, which is how our schools are funded. This is an important day and you will probably witness the secretaries and administration scurrying about on that date.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my visits around the district. The students seem to be actively engaged in learning. Teachers and staff are diligently pursuing their appointed duties. Activity events have started with success. The business of "school" is occurring at the Frisbie Education Center. I appreciate all of your hard work and look forward to continued success.

## Board of Education Highlights



The Board of Education Highlights from the September 14th meeting are posted in each building. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will begin at 5:30 p.m. on October 12, 2009 at Lyons Middle School.

## Dates to Remember

September 23 - Adjourned BOE Meeting, 5:30 p.m., FEC  
 September 25 - RCSSC Meeting, 12:30 p.m., FEC  
 September 30 - PDC Meeting, 3:45 p.m., FEC  
 October 12 - Regular BOE Meeting, 5:30 p.m., LMS  
 October 15 - End of 1st Nine Weeks  
 October 16 - No School; Staff Dev. a.m.;  
 Workday p.m.



## 2009-2010 Benefit Selection Forms



Any changes made to insurance coverage(s) or tax-sheltered annuities on the 2009-2010 Benefit Selection Forms will have an effective date of October 1, 2009.

These changes will be reflected on the **October 20, 2009** payroll.

Please contact the Frisbie Education Center (FEC) if you change your address or phone number.

## BUSINESS OFFICE NEWS...

### Flexible Spending Accounts: Medical Reimbursement and Dependent Care

The 2008-2009 Plan Year will end on September 30, 2009. Claim forms for services provided during the plan year (10/01/2008 thru 9/30/2009) must be submitted no later than **90 days after the plan year ends** to receive reimbursement. Any funds left in the account will be returned to the school district.

### Temporary Leave Bank (TLB) Certified Representatives Needed for Park and Central

The balance in the TLB as of June 30, 2009 is 138.11 days. A Contribution/Waiver Form will be sent to the new and returning certified/licensed staff members to offer them a chance to participate. A minimum of 2 days is required. Information regarding the TLB can be found in the Negotiated Agreement on pages 11 – 15 which is on the district website ([www.usd405.com](http://www.usd405.com)). Please contact Linda Brunk at the Frisbie Education Center (FEC) at 257-5196, Ext. 125 or [lbrunk@usd405.com](mailto:lbrunk@usd405.com) if you have any questions.

## Local Vendors-IMPORTANT!



USD 405 has charge accounts set up with the following local vendors for supplies:

Alco	Home Lumber
Bolen Office Supply	Lyons Foodliner
Dollar General	Pamida
Doug's	Woydziak's Do It Best

Please send a copy of the receipt **with your name and the reason for the purchase** (classroom, football, petty cash, etc) to Jessica at the FEC as soon as possible after the purchase.



### Direct Deposit Simplifies Everything!

If you would like your paycheck to be direct deposited, please stop by the FEC and fill out the Direct Deposit form. A voided check or deposit slip will also be needed to start the process.

## ESSDACK NEWS...

### Go Green ~ Go Paperless

For each Blue Cross and Blue Shield (BC/BS) member who decides to receive their summary of claims processed (SOCP) statements online in 2009, BC/BS of Kansas will donate \$1.00 to the American Cancer Society. Sign up to TURN OFF PAPER at [www.bcbsks.com](http://www.bcbsks.com).

### Want Lower Insurance Premiums?

Since our premiums are based almost entirely on what we spend for medical services, if every one of our 3,000 covered employees reduced their family's claims by \$333 each year, our plan would save over \$1,000,000. That could reduce your premium by 6%.

## TRANSPORTATION NEWS...

### Please Fill Your Vehicle When Returning From Any Trip

by Greg Konda, Transportation Director

Just a reminder, please fill your vehicle when returning from any trip. You may fill up at Jones Oil if you return before 5:00pm. If not, you will need to remember to check out a fuel card and fill up at the COOP. Please print a receipt and write the following on the ticket:

Name  
Destination  
Event  
Vehicle #

## TRANSPORTATION NEWS...

### Maintain an Even, Measured Pace

by RoadTripAmerica.com



One of the most frequent factors behind collisions is the "jackrabbit" driver. He's the guy who's constantly changing speeds, changing lanes, tailgating, and otherwise not fitting into traffic. Other often interrelated causes of traffic collisions are "disparate" vehicle speeds (when one driver is driving much faster than others), impatience, and frequent lane changes.

If you observe traffic way out in front of you, you can visualize what the "flow" of traffic is, as a whole. Visualize traffic as a single, giant organism, like a river. There will be vehicles within the overall picture (or flow) that are traveling faster, and some slower, but you can see what the overall pace of traffic is.

You may be surprised to know that the actual pace of traffic is not that much faster than the speed limit. One of the principles engineers use when setting a speed limit is to consider what speed a normal, reasonable driver actually drives on that particular stretch. Try to match your speed to the overall flow (without exceeding the speed limit by more than a few miles per hour). That said, you must be willing to accept the fact that traveling faster than a posted limit puts you at risk for a citation. But usually, if you are within just a few miles per hour of a speed limit, officers will not bother you, with some obvious exceptions like school zones and construction areas where a posted limit is viewed as an absolute.

Practice my "tortoise" style of driving! Pick your lane, and stay in it. Bopping and weaving from one lane to another, trying to pass every car on the road doesn't gain you much, and *every single lane change you make increases your risk of collision*. As I commute each day, I know which lane is the best for travel under normal circumstances. This may be the lane that I know becomes my exit ramp 5 miles up the road, or it may simply be the lane that flows better most of the time. Often, I choose on the basis of safety. On my motorcycle, for example, I ride in the far right lane (at a slower speed) or in the "car pool lane" for its faster flow, and the "escape" path afforded by the left (or right) shoulder. (In my state, it is legal for motorcycles to use the car pool lanes).

Relax, resist the urge to make frequent lane changes, use [the two-second rule](#), and stay alert to the dangers

posed by the jack rabbits around you! If someone needs to merge into the lane, back off a bit and let them in smoothly. In doing this, you are not only maintaining the flow, but you also set an example that others will follow. When you refuse to allow another driver to merge, the person behind you does the same thing. When you act courteously, the driver behind you ALSO will, and that helps keep traffic moving. I've seen repeatedly how discourtesy causes many of the bottlenecks that gridlock traffic every day.

Practice my "tortoise" style of driving, and, nine times out of ten, you will arrive at your destination just as quickly as the "jackrabbit." You will also not be nearly as stressed by the trip, whether it is a commute to work on Monday a.m., or a road trip to Shangri-La! Keep the shiny side up!

## RCSSC NEWS...

### Project ALIVE: All-State Low Incidence Virtual Endorsement

Submitted by Mary Morningstar, Linda Mitchell and Earle Knowlton

The U.S. Office of Special Education Programs recently funded Project ALIVE, a four-year statewide project to prepare low-incidence teaching personnel to work in school districts where they are needed, and encourage the retention of a satisfactory supply of these teachers in targeted areas of need across the state of Kansas.

Project ALIVE will provide each participant, through his or her chosen regional university, a fellowship that can offset tuition and related costs. Annual fellowships are currently anticipated to be between \$12,000 and \$14,000 per participating student. While a provisional endorsement can be achieved in two semesters, participants can meet the requirements for a full Kansas endorsement in functional special education in approximately a year and a half (four to five semesters).