

Eli the Eagle to Kick Off LiNK Grant Activities During Halftime of Homecoming

On September 14th, the Ness City High School FCS class is hosting a “Read with Eli.” Reading with Eli is a chance for all children to listen to Eli the Eagle read during halftime of the homecoming game. Reading aloud is one of the most important things we can do for our little eagles. It builds foundational skills, lays the groundwork for loving books, and introduces vocabulary and new ideas. As the little eagles are leaving the field, they will also receive a free book to take home.

This program is made possible through a Literacy Network of Kansas (LiNK) project grant that USD 303 was awarded during the June 12th, State Board of Education Meeting in Topeka. USD 303 worked with nine other area School Districts to secure a 3 year \$3.2 million grant designed to improve literacy in children Birth through 12th grade helping them become successful readers and writers.

During the 3 year grant cycle, USD 303 will receive \$79,881 a year for a total of \$239,043. These funds will be used to provide training and support for all USD 303 teachers, purchase materials and aides designed to improve reading, oral, and written literacy, and develop community engagement centered around literacy. The District will be working with local daycare providers, pre-schools, health department, extension service, library, Rotary, and other community organizations to strengthen the literacy skills of our entire community.



“This is an exciting opportunity that several staff members worked hard to obtain. This grant will help not only our school, but also our entire community grow and improve. We are excited to work with several community partners to provide the best literacy based education possible.” Derek Reinhardt, Superintendent USD 303

We encourage all community members and all children aged Birth through 6th grade to join us for our community kick off at halftime of the Homecoming game versus St. John on Friday, September 14th. Join Eli the Eagle on the field, and enjoy a good book!