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**RALPH THE MOUSE  
DELIVERS BOOKS TO  
NCES**



**7TH AND 8TH  
GRADERS BUILD  
WIND POWERED  
VEHICLES**



**VO-AG CLASSES  
GOING STRONG**

# EAGLE PROFILE

## Ness City Junior High students engage in project-based learning

Students at Ness City Junior High arrived at school Tuesday, November 3 with little preparation for the challenges they would face over the course of the next two days. As they filtered into the gym, their eyes widened at the sight of mats that covered half of the gym floor, tables filled with a collection of seemingly random objects and gigantic fans. The seventh and eighth graders cautiously whispered to one another, “What are we doing today?” while teachers exchanged covert glances and offered little information for the curious students.

Twenty minutes after the first bell--and the debut of several teachers’ acting careers, including 7-12 Principal Tom Flax--students’ curiosity was further piqued. A teacher-written and teacher-performed skit established a unique challenge for the 40 students of Ness City Junior High: the students would spend the next two days creating land vehicles, propelled only by wind.

This style of learning is known as “project-based learning,” or PBL. In schools across the country, educators are adopting PBL opportunities for their classrooms in search of ways to connect learning to real-life experiences or provide more engaging learning opportunities. PBL lessons require students to master skills



**7th and 8th graders  
were challenged by  
the Jr. High Staff  
and Consultants  
Honeycutt and  
Lewman**

across a variety of subject areas, ranging from science and English to math and art.

Students started small, with Matchbox cars, hot glue guns, thin wooden rods, string, Wal-Mart bags and scissors. They were assigned to groups of five and challenged to make a working model of a wind-wagon in one hour, with the stipulation that vehicles would be measured for speed and distance. A feverish hum filled the gym as 40 students began working together to rise to the challenge.

“I was pretty excited for the students to get started on the project,” said Dawn Flax, NCHS social studies and ESL instructor. “The skit made [the students] giggle and got them fired up.”

Shop instructor Brent Kerr added, “My first reaction? Chaos. Once that calmed down, though, I was impressed by how quickly and efficiently the students set to work. They were all engaged from the very beginning.”

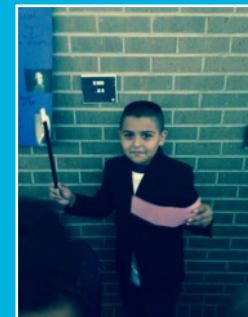
After testing their Matchbox wind-wagons, students returned to the drawing table to make adjustments to design. Eighth graders Skyler Woods and Sebastian Araiza-Bejarano took a few moments to explain a unique design-element other groups hadn’t previously considered: “We have this sail on the back . . . but we’re also creating sails on each side,” Woods explained. “That way, if the car turns or wind is coming from a different direction, the vehicle will keep moving,” Araiza-Bejarano chimed in.

As the first day progressed, students moved on from the initial, smaller wind-wagon designs to larger, more challenging wind-wagons that didn’t have wheels or axles. The removal of this seemingly simple feature proved frustrating for many. Groups built, tested, discarded, revised and retested wheel and axle setups one after another. Their trial and error experiments, coupled with prior knowledge of everything from cars to combines and review of other groups’ methods, resulted in the discovery of ways to prevent wheels from wobbling or wagons from making unwanted route changes.

NCHS math instructor Bruce Buethe noted “[This project] was a great way to engage students with different skills and interests.” He added that project-based learning experiences such as this one require teachers to ask students about the choices they are making. Asking students to explain their thinking drives higher-order thinking, a goal all teachers work toward in the classroom.

When asked what went well for this inaugural event, Flax indicated that “having the mini-project first was a great way to get the students’ brains in motion without scaring them.” With a laugh, she added that teachers learned just as much--if not more--than students this first time around. “Patience. [You need] lots of patience. And we learned to stand back

## 3rd Grade Living Museum



Students created a living wax museum in October. Each third grader chose a person from history to research. After learning all about their life, the student wrote a speech in first-person. The day of the museum, students dressed as their person and lined the hallways. To make our "wax figures" come alive, people would push their "on button" and the students would recite their speech.

and let the kids figure it out.”

And “figure it out” they did. Students quickly learned on day two of the project that teacher expectations were high. Many discovered a rubric for presentations that they hadn’t studied--or even acknowledged--the day before. Students learned they would be presenting their projects and research on wind-wagons to high school and elementary students. This presentation aspect was a vital component of the project, teachers determined beforehand. In order to challenge students on a variety of skills, it was necessary to ask them to do more than just build.

“Research and presentation of findings are significant components of higher education and life in the workplace. Students will need to develop the ability to search the internet--among other sources--for reliable, accurate information and process their findings. We must try to prepare our students for many occupations that don’t even exist yet, and teaching a Project-Based Learning model can help to prepare them to problem solve and work together.” said Principal Tom Flax.

Ultimately, teachers at NCHS believe that projects such as this one will positively impact the way USD 303 schools function, including teaching and learning methods. Buethe sees PBL experiences as opportunities to more effectively prepare students for employers. “Employers constantly rank soft skills higher than academic skills,” Buethe commented. “Kids need [PBL] more than ever. This is a means to build these soft skills while building upon academic skills at the same time.”

Similarly, Dawn Flax predicts that PBL methods will change the way NCHS instructors teach and students learn. “I see this as an opportunity for teachers to move away from traditional methods. The students will become more involved in their learning, and not just wait for teachers to lead them to the ‘right’ answers. Sometimes there is more than one answer, and we want our kids to learn that.”

Kerr added that he thinks this method of learning is invaluable. “It moves learning from situations where students sit and receive information, memorize, and regurgitate facts on tests. Projects such as this one will produce students that are capable of thinking critically, working with diverse individuals, and solving complex problems.”

Of course, you can’t argue with philosophies like that.

To see video of the events go to [www.youtube.com/c/derekreinhardt](http://www.youtube.com/c/derekreinhardt).

## NCES Recognize Veterans

The students at NCES took time on Veteran’s Day to recognize those that fought for our freedoms. Students made signs, flags, posters, and drew pictures to thank the Veterans. Students bared the crisp morning air to start their day outside where Cole and Wyatt Rupp helped the Cub Scouts raise the flag, Trace Flax sang the National Anthem, and everyone did the Flag Salute. Students finished the ceremonies by shaking the Veteran’s hands, and feeding them cinnamon rolls from Cuppa Joe’s! Thank you to all the Veterans that spent time with us.

## NCES Hosts Family STEM Night

Ness City Elementary School hosted its annual Fall Family Night on November 10. In years past, we have always done reading activities on this night, but with the many Project Based Lessons the students have been





working on, the teachers felt that it would be a great opportunity to introduce parents to STEM! STEM is an acronym meaning Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. The purpose is to put students in a position where they must apply the skills and knowledge they have developed in a real world application. Parents and students had the opportunity to design and build many things during the evening's activities. In the Kindergarten classroom, parents and students were given the task of creating the largest bubble they could out of the given materials. Those that visited the First Grade classroom learned about catapults, and then got to design and build their own. Some students enjoyed launching Candy Corn at Mr. Reinhardt. The Second Grade classroom learned about spider webs, and then had the opportunity to build their own. Visitors to the Third Grade Classroom were given two challenges. Build a marble roller coaster out of newspaper, or build a Teepee out of newspaper. If your interest was in floatation, surface area, and boats, the Fourth Grade Classroom gave families the chance to design and build their own boat out of foil. The vessels were then tested by seeing how much weight they could carry before sinking. Flight was the activity of choice in the Fifth Grade classroom. Participants learned a little about aerodynamics, and then were given the opportunity to build many different styles of paper airplanes. They then had to see if their plane would fly as far as Mr. Scott's. Not sure too many made it as far as his did! The Sixth Grade Classroom challenged families to save Fred the Worm. Students and their parents had to figure out how to get a Gummy Worm through a Gummy Lifesaver without touching either with their hands. Tough Stuff! The Art Room provided Families the opportunity to learn about pendulums and to create original works of art by using a pendulum to paint on a canvas. Students and Families interested in building could venture into the Pre-School Room and build with Connect-X. In the Library, students had the opportunity to color bookmarks and motorcycles as part of our One Book, One School project. Ralph the Mouse even took time out of his busy schedule to encourage students to read and work hard in school. Thank you to all the parents and family members that joined us for this evening of fun and learning.

## One Book, One School

Elementary students had a special guest deliver books to them on November 4. Ralph the Mouse had heard that the staff at NCES had been discussing a One Book, One School program, and he decided to take action. See, Ralph is the rather famous mouse from Beverly Cleary's series of books. Ralph's stardom emerged from the first book of the series titled The Mouse and the Motorcycle. Ralph so enjoys seeing students read with their parents, he decided to deliver the books to the students of NCES on his famous motorcycle.

Students spent thirteen days reading the book with their parents. Each morning the students had an opportunity to put their name in a drawing for prizes by answering a question about the chapter they read the night before. It was a great opportunity to promote reading and family engagement.

Ralph made a second appearance during Family Night. Students were given the opportunity to take pictures with Ralph as he encouraged them to continue reading.

Students showed great enthusiasm throughout the project. They wanted to





## PRIVACY NOTICE

The superintendent, the board and staff shall protect the right of privacy of students and their families in connection with any surveys or physical examinations conducted, assisted, or authorized by the board or administration. The district shall provide parents notice of their rights under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment annually, at the beginning of each school year, and at any other time the school district policies in this area are substantially changed.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

USD 303 will continue to monitor and regulate the utilization of the district's computer network to assure patrons of USD 303's compliance with the federal regulation of the Children's Internet Protection Act.

know what was going to happen to Ralph next, and they wanted to know what the prizes were. Prizes ranged from being first in the lunch line to candy bars and fountain drinks from Mini Super-Mart to special pizza parties with Mr. Reinhardt during lunch. The Pizza Parties were a great opportunity for the students to talk about their favorite parts of the book, their favorite parts of school, and their plans for the future. If you are going to get called to the office, it better be for a pizza party!



The project ended with a visit from Ralph. Ralph Mouse took time out of his busy schedule to greet students at the front door, and award the final prize to the winning students. Thank you to Jamboree for providing the Movie Vouchers and thank you to Mini Super-Mart for providing the candy bars and wrist bands.



## USD 303 School Board Moves Forward with Science Room Remodel

The School Board and Mr. Reinhardt had worked hard to develop a facilities improvement project last year. Through study and conversations with staff, parents, and community members, they

had developed a plan to greatly improve the existing USD 303 facilities. A bond issue was in the works when the oil prices dropped. The Board decided that it was not prudent to move forward with a big project at that time due to the impact oil has on the local economy. The condition of our facilities and the learning environments we provide our students play a major role in their success. Understanding this, the Board felt that it was important to continue to move forward on a smaller scale.

Studying the major project, the Board and Mr. Reinhardt felt that major improvements were needed in the High School Science Rooms and HVAC systems. "It is our duty to prepare our students for the world they will be living in. We have great teachers that work hard everyday, but regardless of how hard they work, they can not provide our students with what they need without proper facilities. Our current Science facilities are lacking," Mr. Reinhardt.

The Board worked with KNIPP Energy Services to develop a plan and cost estimates. Once finished, the Board approved a plan that would completely gut and remodel the existing Science classrooms and one English Classroom along the North side of the High School, turn the conference room into three classrooms, replace the windows on the North side of the High School, and upgrade the HVAC systems in classrooms, cafeteria, Library, and Offices at the High School. The project is expected to cost \$2,000,000, and will be completed over this coming summer. The Board will use existing funds and current taxing authority to pay for the project.

## USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at [\(800\) 877-8339](tel:8008778339). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#), (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call [\(866\) 632-9992](tel:8666329992). Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) Fax: [\(202\) 690-7442](tel:2026907442); or
- (3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

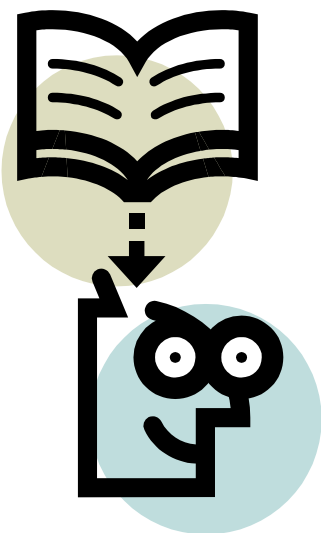
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## Mastering Multiplication the Third Grade Way

Third grade students have been working on learning what multiplication is as well as mastering their multiplication facts. Did you know that multiplication is repeated addition? Did you also know that there are various ways to solve a multiplication problem? You can make an array (a picture that shows equal groups in rows and columns), you can skip count or “count by” (which would also be repeated addition), or you can show equal groups! Some of the third grade students spent 3-4 weeks with Mrs. Keener building a visual multiplication chart for their peers. Studies show that students learn in many ways and one of those ways is visually. We thought that by providing a “picture” for each multiplication fact that it may help us with our fact fluency! I’d say it has been a success so far! On each card you can find the fact and one of the many ways to solve it. The students really enjoying putting this project together and worked really hard for several days getting it just right! Didn’t it turn out amazing?!?!?



Pictured are: Sabryn Copeland, Angela Tavarez, Kaylee Sunday, Luis Tavarez, and Jorge Esparza next to their work!



## High School Accelerated Reader

Although students in grades 7 through 12 are no longer required to participate in the Accelerated Reading program, several students are electing to continue their participation. This software is designed to facilitate growth of reading skills by allowing students to choose books on subjects in which they are interested and books that are on their reading level in an effort to practice and enhance their reading skills. Congratulations to those students who are continuing to read and record their scores by utilizing this software. The following students have led their classes in points accumulated for the first semester. They are Sebastian Araiza – 16.1 points-8<sup>th</sup> grade; Alysson Foos – 59 points-9<sup>th</sup> grade; Madison Seery – 24 points-10<sup>th</sup> grade; Alexis Clarke – 18 points-11<sup>th</sup> grade; and Storm Sehl – 15.3 points-12<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Don’t forget to stop by and check out the new book shelf in the High School Library for some Good Reads!!!!**





### 5th Graders Apply Math to Real World

The 5<sup>th</sup> graders have been learning how to use their math skills in the community and in real life. They visited the Mini Super Mart to see just how they can use those math skills. The staff at the store demonstrated how they use their math skills every day by counting items and pricing merchandise. We are also planning to visit the grocery store to see how the prices use decimals. We have also used different types of technology in the classroom such as Google Cardboard and other GAFE (Google Apps For Education). These are great apps for the students to be familiarized with so they are better prepared for their future career.

### NO, ITS NOT HALLOWEEN!

Even though this picture may appear to resemble skeletons from Halloween, they are instead the skeleton models the Advance Biology Class is using to learn about the anatomy of the human body. Students

worked in pairs during class to add muscles to their individual models. This helped them learn the names and locations of specific muscles in the body. The students have adopted and named their models since they will be spending a lot of laboratory time using them this school year. In the future students will be using these models to build the digestive, circulatory and nervous systems.

### PBS

Positive Behavior Support is a proactive strategy for defining, teaching and supporting student behavior resulting in academic and social gains in a positive school environment. Students'



( Pictured left to right at the bottom are: Kristen Klitzke, Madison Gabel, Darian McClure, Jaycie Richardson, and Alexis Clarke. At top left to right are: Peyton Fellhoelter, Chandler Stiawalt, Sarinna Rogers, Logan Schlegel and Reese Wallgren)

hard work and dedication to this program will be recognized as teachers see fit. Students will earn feathers when they are "caught" demonstrating positive behaviors. Each month students may turn in their feathers for rewards. A few of the items students may choose from are, lunch with their teacher, extra recess for their class, or choose the book their teacher reads. These are the top feather earners for each class for the month of November.



Zaylee Lopez, Daniel Morales, Katelynn Gould, Karmen Herrera, Alexis Gabel, Emily Clanton, Alexa Reinhardt

## Elementary AR

We all know that reading aloud to our kids is important. As a parent, you have the power to boost your children's learning potential simply by making books an integral part of their lives. We would like to congratulate the following students for being the top readers for their class for the month of November. These students have scored the highest percentage and the highest points earned on the AR quizzes they have taken.



Benjamin Gorman, Jewel Hurst, Izzi Reinhardt, Emily Lozano, Emily Clanton, Alex Pavlu

## District Report Card

The Kansas State Department of Education has opened the new Building and District Report Card Site. The accreditation process is changing, and the State is beginning to look at other factors other than state assessment scores that make a Building and a School successful. As we go through this change, more and more information about Ness City Schools will become available. This information can be accessed by going to: <http://ksreportcard.ksde.org/>



## Pre-School is visited by 6th Grade

The 6th Grade students from Mr. Schulte's class came to the preschool to teach them how to make a marshmallow snowman. The preschoolers had a great time creating their snowman and all enjoyed eating the snowman for a snack along with some healthy orange slices. The preschoolers are also making a snowman craft for a Christmas gift for their parents.

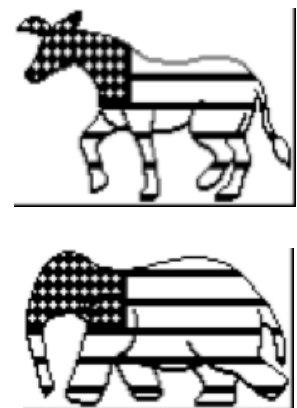


## Conservative vs. Liberal?? Where Do You Fall??

As the race for the White House heats up, and the news surrounding the would-be candidates seems to dominate the media, lots of terms are used to describe the candidates and their views.

Just exactly what is a conservative? What is considered liberal? What does left wing versus right wing mean and how do the Republican and Democratic parties really differ? These are the questions the juniors in Government class researched and discussed in their recent unit on political parties.

The students researched issues such as affirmative action, the Affordable Care Act, The Patriot Act, stem cell research and global warming. On each issue the students





were required to present positive aspects and results, as well as any negative aspects or results. This helped the students determine fact from fiction on the important issues facing our society and empowered them with the knowledge to make informed decisions on their own beliefs and preferences. To conclude the unit, students then completed on-line surveys/quizzes which placed the students on a political spectrum ranging from extreme liberal on the far left, to ultra-conservative on the far right. Some were surprised to discover that they held predominately conservative views, or possibly leaned towards more liberal views. For anyone interested in determining their own political attitudes and opinions, there are numerous on-line surveys and questionnaires available, which usually only take a few minutes to complete.

## NCES Library Christmas Tree Decorated by Students

Christmas is celebrated in many countries around the world, caroling, feasting and gift-giving along with church services and good wishes to others. Traditions vary from country to country. This year students in the Ness City Elementary School have learned about various Christmas traditions from other parts of the world. Each class has taken a part of what they have learned and made an ornament for the Library Christmas tree. We have a variety of countries represented, Africa, Sweden, Canada, Finland and of course, USA. Merry Christmas to you all!



Topping our tree is a globe made by Emily Clanton, Bryce Flax, Hannah Delaney, Vanessa Guzman and Aneth Reyes.

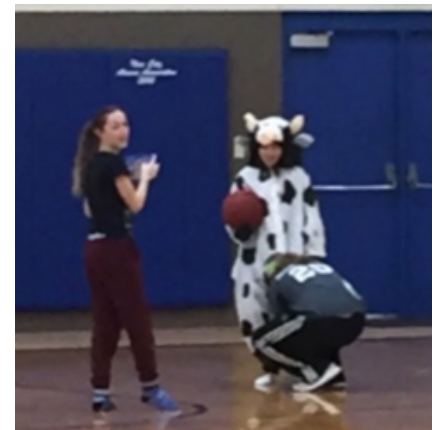
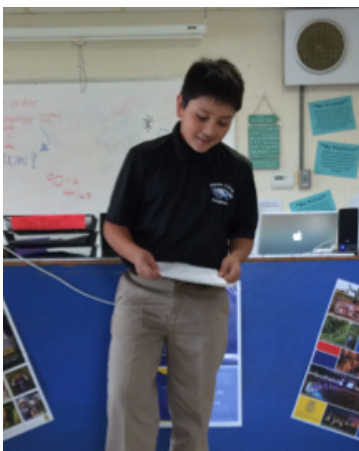
## What's Going on in the Agriculture Class?

Students in Ag. Mechanics, Welding and Small Gas Engines have been in the shop. In Ag. Mechanics and Welding, students have been learning about Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) commonly known as Stick Welding. They have been learning how to weld different joints, such as a T-joint, Butt joint, Lap Joint, Vertical Butt and a Corner. They have also learned about Oxy-Acetylene Welding. Students in Small Gas Engines

have been working on disassembling a lawn mower engine. They have all had the chance to get their hands dirty taking it apart. They all learned the joys (most of the time its not a joy) of removing and inserting intake and outtake valves.

In the classroom, students in Exploratory Ag. have been perfecting their creed and it is their final to say the creed and answer questions about the creed. The creed helps them learn about agriculture and learn communication and speaking skills. You can see in the pictures that Hector is reading the creed to us in Spanish, this is after he translated the creed from English to

Spanish. You can also see the girls filming a video in a cow costume. I had them create a video of them saying the creed in an outside of the box way. In my Agriscience class,





students have been learning about plant science. They have learned about different leaf structure by having a scavenger hunt to find leaves around the school and identify the characteristics of them. They are also learning about different crops such as corn, wheat, grain sorghum and more. My Ag. Business and Leadership class continued to visit several businesses around town and also have been working with creating their own business and planning it and finding out more about having a business. They have also learned about organization skills.



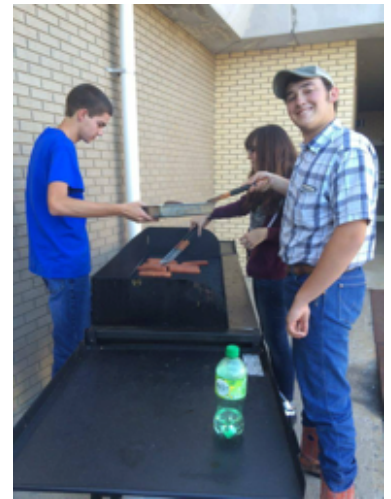
Oh it's the most busy time of year, well at least for Ness City FFA it is. As you can see below FFA Members have been keeping busy attending contests, helping in the community and at school and planning events for next semester.

#### In October:

The first week of October FFA had something to do about everyday. On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, FFA Officers attended a retreat in Garden City. This was filled with team bonding, planning and collaborating for this year's events and programs. We were very lucky when a couple bought our breakfast at Ihop. FFA ran concessions during a volleyball game on October 6<sup>th</sup>.



The next day we headed to Dodge City to attend a Greenhand Conference and the Creed Speaking Contest. Taylor Murray and Savannah Moore competed in the Creed Contest and Taylor placed 4<sup>th</sup>. The other five freshmen that attended the Greenhand Conference learned about FFA and what all you can do through FFA. Thursday of that week, FFA had our first FFA Meeting and Cookies, Cocoa and Coffee event. To end the week we partook in the Homecoming Parade. To end the month of October, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> we helped at the Senior Center in Ness City. While we were there we moved furniture so they could wax their floors and then came back and moved it all back.



#### In November:

In order to attend National Western Stock Show, FFA had to ask permission from the board to attend an out of state trip. On November 9<sup>th</sup> Addie Beutler, Taylor Murray, Kerri Bruntz and Kristen Klitzke presented the trip details to the board, and with success they approved our trip. On November 9<sup>th</sup> FFA attended a Horse Judging Contest in Garden City. Students who competed did amazing and our senior team placed 4<sup>th</sup>. Kristen Klitzke also received 6<sup>th</sup> place individual. On



November 17<sup>th</sup>, we had our second FFA Meeting, during this meeting FFA members received news on who was able to attend National Western Stock Show and information about our Seitz fundraiser. Congrats to Logan Schlegel for selling the most items in Seitz. Towards the end of the month we attended contests in Dodge City. At the Agriculture Mechanics contest we had an awesome team, on this team was Payton Rice who placed 4<sup>th</sup>! We also had a Horticulture contest and that team placed 5<sup>th</sup>.

To prepare for this contest we were very thankful for Melinda at Designs by Melinda for showing us how to make a corsage. We also took a few students to the Greenhand par-law workshop to learn about parliamentary procedure and they loved it!



To Begin December:

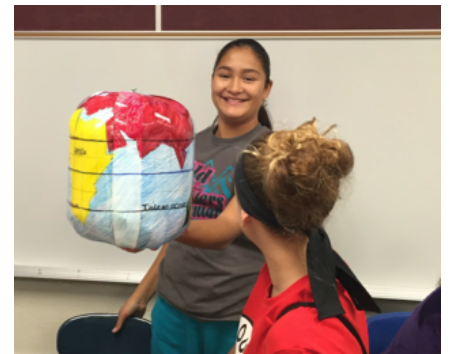
Already in December, FFA members helped at BTI when they had Santa and Ornament Decorations. We also got our Seitz Fruit, Meat and Cookie Dough in and have been busy delivering this.

FFA wants to thank everyone that has helped us or supported us, we really appreciate it. We would love to see more parents and family members at our FFA Meetings. We also have our annual FFA Banquet on April 1<sup>st</sup> and we would love to see you there!

*Ness City FFA wants to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

## Exploring our World - Geography Style

I dare you to ask one of our 7th graders about latitude and longitude. I bet they could tell you all about it. Throughout the 1st semester, students in 7th grade social science have been studying geography, both the human and physical characteristics. They've used iPads to create paper slide videos about latitude and longitude. They've been newscasters, trying to convince viewers to travel to a city, which they had to find using latitude and longitude. Once they discovered their city, they had to write a script to encourage people to visit this city based on climate. One group had to convince people that Moscow, Russia would be a fun place to visit in November. They became cartographers who drew maps and then turned them into globes, using, you guessed it, latitude and longitude. It's been challenging and exciting to open the world to 7th graders and watch them explore life outside Ness County, Kansas. Next semester, they will get to stay in Kansas and learn about the state through the eyes of the first settlers and beyond as we study Kansas History. I wonder if they know what a conestoga is?



Andrea Morales Pro shows off the globe she and Janessa Briney created.

## Sixth Graders Help Out

The sixth grade class has been working hard to help out around the school. One project the class has taken on is the challenge of making an igloo for Mrs. Schulte's preschool class. The igloo took two days to construct and was made using approximately 200 gallon jugs, cardboard, and fake snow. All supplies for the project were donated. Thank you for your support!

Sixth graders have also been busy with their recycling service project. They have recycled approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a ton of paper. All classes have been doing an excellent job of helping them reach their goal. As part of their service project they are working with every class to design a winter themed art project. Sixth grade came up with this idea as a way to say "thank you" to all the teachers who have helped support our project.





## Mrs. Schulte's Preschool

The preschoolers have been working hard at learning more letters in the alphabet. We have been incorporating many activities to help them learn these letters better. For instance when we learned the letter Ii, sixth grade came in a built us an igloo. We thanked them by having an ice cream party. For the letter Dd we had a few dogs come and visit our classroom and we then were able to compare and contrast them. That week we also dug for dinosaur bones and played doctor. I think we have a lot of future doctors on our hands. Both preschool classes have been taking a trip to the nursing home every month. Last month we went and sang different Thanksgiving songs. We also created turkeys for them to hang in the hallways. The kids love giving their gifts and talking with the residents.



## RULES Rule in Second Grade

The Golden Rule Teaches  
To Be kind To One Another  
Home Rules Teach  
To Listen To Your Mother  
Swimming Pool Rules  
At The Shallow End, No Diving  
Police Rules Are  
Watch Your Speed  
When You Are Driving  
Sheriff Bryan Whipple Says  
"There Are Many Rules To Obey  
So We Have To Follow Them  
Each and Every Day."



Sherrif Bryan Whipple Visits The Second Grade To Teach About Rules

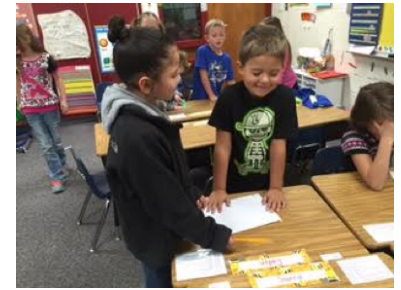
## Communicating How?

Can you get someone to do something without saying or writing anything? Telling classmates to clap without saying a word, or to sit down, or to write their name is a little more difficult without verbal cues. The Second Graders were challenged to accomplish these tasks by role modeling as the teacher and also





as a student and they realized it was somewhat frustrating to communicate without talking. The majority of the students, after taking a poll, reported it was harder to teach a student, than be the student who learns. This activity was a lead-in to studying the life of Helen Keller, how she conquered over her blindness and deafness, and her determined teacher, Anne Sullivan.



## FLIGHT TIME IS FUN.

Math Group:

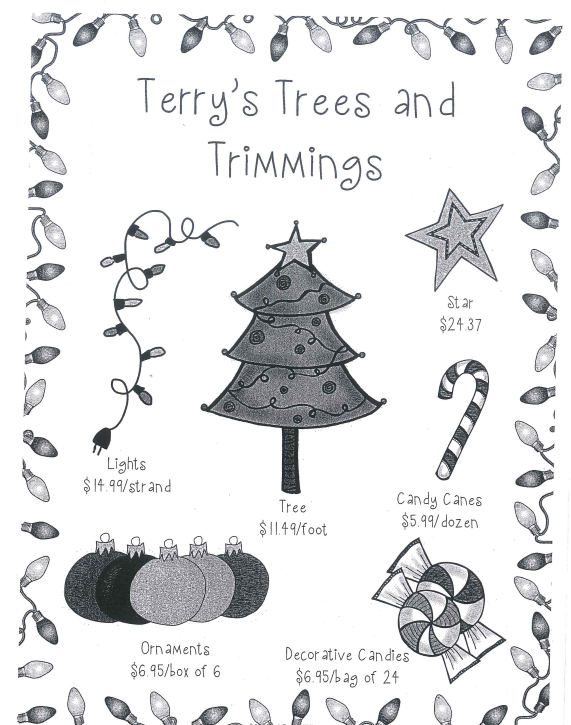
The 5th/6th Graders that have been attending Mrs. Foos Flight Time Group have been doing some holiday themed activities as part of their learning. We have Calculated the Cost to Trim a Christmas Tree. Students had to come up with their own word problems to share with classmates if they were given the following items: (See picture)

A sample problem written by a student: Gavin bought a 9 foot tall tree and decorated it with 5 strands of lights, 45 glass ornaments, 2 dozen candy canes and one gold star. What was the total cost of trimming the tree?

English Language Arts Group:

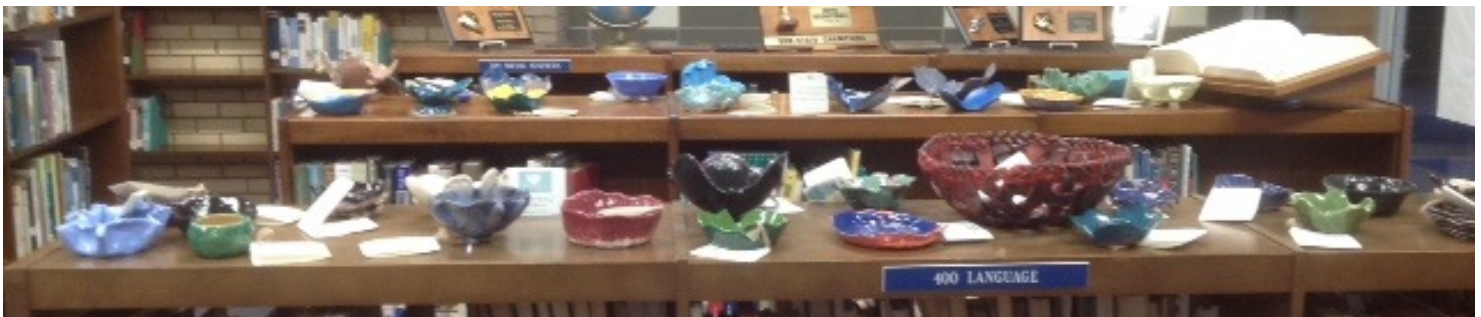
We also read the following poem and talked about the meanings of the idioms listed in the poem. How many different idioms can you find? Can you explain the meaning of them?

It was Christmas Day, the 25th of December  
 And I knew right away it was one I'd remember!  
 I was excited, but Grandma didn't give me a chance  
 Before she said, "Settle down! You've got ants in your pants!"  
 I know I am the apple of her eye,  
 But sometimes I'm really not sure why!  
 My aunt was truly a fish out of water.  
 By the way, she is my grandmother's daughter.  
 Family gatherings seem to make her worry  
 And she always hopes they'll end in a hurry!  
 My grandpa told funny stories, and I was all ears.  
 He's told some great ones over the years!  
 When he jokes, I can't even keep a straight face!  
 He tells each story at the perfect pace.  
 My grandma just shakes her head. You see,  
 Grandpa's jokes aren't her cup of tea!



# High School Art and Business Departments Collaborate Empty Bowls Project

Empty Bowls is a major project in Imagine Render, which is a 501c3 non-profit organization. The mission of Imagine Render is to create positive and lasting change through the arts, education, and projects that build community. The high school art students were challenged to create either a functional or decorative bowl utilizing the potters wheel, coil method or slab formed around an existing bowl or balloon. Once the pieces were bisqued fired they choose various glaze and painting techniques to complete their art. The purpose of the Empty Bowls project is to raise awareness of individuals and families that are experiencing difficulties with feeding their family and to allow people to purchase beautiful, unique works of art. The bowls are currently on display in the Ness City High School Library and we are asking for a free will donation that will be donated to the Ness County Food Bank. The donation jar is located to the NCHS office. The Graphic Design class was in charge of marketing and advertising for the project. The class designed name tags and flyers. Each bowl has a name tag that includes the sculptor's name, the purpose of Empty Bowls Project, and an interesting fact about the Empty Bowls Project. Printed on the flyers is the purpose of Empty Bowls Project, a fact and the location of where to purchase a bowl. To learn more about Empty Bowls Project, visit [www.emptybowls.net](http://www.emptybowls.net).





## Physical Education:

Today more than ever, our students need help leading active, healthy lives. To help promote this, before Thanksgiving break, students took part in an abbreviated fitness test which consisted of push-ups, sit-ups and running. The test establishes a baseline from which students can set goals and check progress. The students did a great job and there were many great marks. We will do this again in the spring and the goal is to see everyone improve their marks. We also started our basketball unit. The lower grades have been practicing their tricks (ball handling drills) while the higher grades have been eating humble pie by Mr. Younger in knockout and other various basketball games. We will finish up basketball after break then it will be onto scooters and Winter Olympics! Elementary students will also be taking part in a fundraiser for The Ronald McDonald House, more information to come.

## Cross Country:

The Cross Country team ended their season at the state meet on Halloween with 2 runners bringing home top 10 finishes: Freshman Savannah Moore 6<sup>th</sup> and Senior Lucas Roths 4<sup>th</sup>. At the regional meet the week before, Trace Flax was 1 place (2 seconds) away from qualifying and the boys team of Roths, Flax, Kevin Rodriguez, Luis Rodriguez, Nashon Copeland and Landon Reinhardt missed qualifying for state as a team by just 1 place. It was a great season and I'm so proud of the 2 state runners and can't say enough positive things about them. The foundation has been set for Savannah, now I'm excited to see how much more she can develop in the next 3 plus years. The light came on for Trace halfway through the season and am excited for what the next season has in store. Lucas knows how much I appreciate everything he's put into the program. After receiving offers from various schools, Lucas decided to continue his running at the next level at Fort Hays State University. He is very well prepared for the next level and I'm excited to see what he can do there.

## Music Department Holds Holiday Concerts

The music department has been very busy planning and preparing music concerts. The junior high and high school choirs and bands presented a successful winter concert on December 1st. They performed many familiar holiday tunes to put everyone in the holiday spirit. The Elementary performed their concert on December the 3rd. It opened with the 5th and 6th grade bands playing holiday tunes. The Kindergarten through 3rd grade presented a concert with holiday music from around the world. The 4th through 6th grade presented the musical "Santa's Holiday Hoedown". The evening ended with a visit from Santa Claus. We are looking forward to playing pep band for the basketball season and are excited about starting contest music. To see video of the performances go to [www.youtube.com/c/derekreinhardt](http://www.youtube.com/c/derekreinhardt).





## Teachers Attend National Conference

This summer seven teachers, along with Mr. Reinhardt, were given the amazing opportunity to attend the SDE National Differentiated Instruction Conferences in Las Vegas, NV. From July 7 through 10, we spent time listening to and learning from nationally and internationally renowned education experts. We all brought back many great ideas and new practices for our classrooms and a renewed excitement to continue the projects and ideas we already had in place. We are all extremely grateful for the opportunity to attend the conferences and want to thank those who made our trip possible.



Back row: Bruce Buethe, Amanda Buethe, Bethyl Randa, Candice McNinch, Megan Gerstner  
Front row: Lesa Schulte, Jessica Smith

## The Freshmen Class

The school year is continuing to go well for the freshmen class. Students have worked hard with their fundraisers, and activities. However, one of the highlights with the freshmen class has been the homecoming parade. Students created a float with the theme, “Arrest the Rebels.” Needless to say the creativity, and determination of this class has come through to the very end! Next semester the freshmen class will continue to work concession stands, but will also be doing a couple of other fundraisers. Please stay tuned for more information in the near future!

\*\*Parents, you are more than welcome to step in to help us work at the concessions. We would love to have you join us! Please contact our class sponsor, Ms. Jessip, if you have questions!\*\*



## Ms. Jessip’s English Classes

At the end of the first quarter the seventh grade did a major locker clean out. The locker clean up has helped students with organization, and being to class on time. Then, we did an in depth study of *The River*, by Gary Paulsen at the beginning of the second quarter. Students thoroughly enjoyed this book as well as the activities centered on the novel, such as their own makeshift raft created out of paper and paper clips. To wrap up the year the students are writing their first narrative paper about a time that they learned an important lesson. Needless to say some of these lessons are quite mystifying.

The ninth grade finished studying an epic story called *The Odyssey*, by Homer, with a minor project to demonstrate their comprehension of characterization, plot, etc. Students then completed a short creative writing unit that was stemmed from a Halloween writing activity. Currently students are finishing the semester with a narrative paper in which each paper is simply astounding, and goes beyond each expectation.

Lastly, the eleventh grade started off the quarter with a research paper based on



Seventh Grader Seth Flax showed off his clean locker by demonstrating how well he can fit inside.



Eleventh grade students demonstrate a common emotion from the play through a theatrical exercise called, "Freeze."

the Salem Witch Trails. Afterwards students read, and analyzed *The Crucible*, by Arthur Miller. Students used theatrical exercises to review the events, themes, emotions, etc. from the novel. Then, to finish the quarter students selected a project to demonstrate their comprehension of characterization, theme, setting, etc., from the novel. Several student projects consist of dioramas, board games, persuasive papers, etc. Nevertheless students are going above and beyond the project expectations.

In conclusion, the next semester will be a challenge for several students with the continuation of studying novels, short stories, poetry, and building on writing skills. However, each unit will give several opportunities for students to step out of their comfort zone as well as explore several of their strengths and weaknesses. Needless to say students are ready for a break before the next semester begins! I look forward to the next semester with each one of my classes.

Happy Holidays!!

## Math Classes Work on Different Concepts

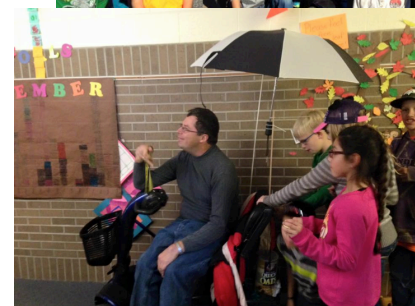
Students in Mr. Allen's classes have been very busy wrapping up the semester before winter break. Eighth grade is working on Transformations of different figures while Trigonometry is getting ready for College Algebra next semester. Algebra 1 is graphing different functions.

Students in Algebra 2 and Integrated Algebra 2 have presented short math lessons to the grade school students. Some of the students showed the grade school kids math tricks while other groups worked on the same concepts the students were going over in class.

The Algebra 2 class took on a big project this year. They put together a 7-12 breakfast on the 17th of December. Many students brought different supplies for the meal. The school also donated the sausage and pancake mix for the meal which is greatly appreciated. I am very proud of these 10 students for their hard work on trying to make our school even better.

## 4th Graders Work on Project to Help Volunteer John Fritzler

The fourth graders have been busy this year. We've experimented on how to make jack-o-lanterns last longer, studied multiplication, and created trading cards for Greek gods. But my favorite was the two days before Thanksgiving break when the students worked in groups to create something to help John Fritzler in the upcoming winter weather. The students love having John in our classroom and wanted to make sure that he would be able to continue to come when it started raining or snowing. They all came up with some good ideas and worked really hard to make those ideas work. In the end one group came up with a

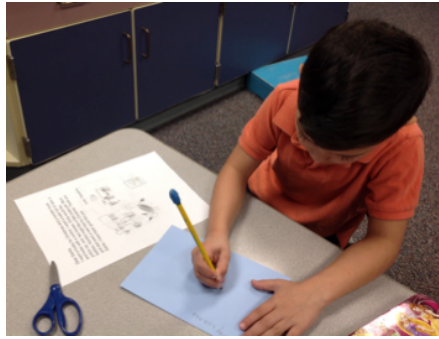




winning design! The students were so excited that their project worked and that they could present it to John.

## Kindergarten

In Kindergarten we put our technology away for a few minutes to sit down and write a letter to Santa and mail it the old fashioned way. They are all excited for the Christmas season and can't wait to see what Santa is going to bring them.



## K-3 Music Performs Christmas Concert

The Ness City K-3 students have been working hard and having fun in Music class. Kindergarten students recently made their very first instrument in class. They are learning to hear and play along with the beats to the songs they hear in class. They made a Bell Belt to jingle along with their Jingle Bells song during the Christmas concert this year. First Grade are learning to create beats of their own in class and they made their drums to keep the beat during their African Wish song. Second Grade made guitars to strum along to the song Run Run Rudolph and are learning to recognize musical notes. Third grade is preparing to make harps to play with Santa Lucia and have been starting to read music and keep the beat simultaneously. The students performed wonderfully during their Christmas Concert on December 3rd. They have decorated the music room with tons of Christmas decorations and will soon be creating music of their very own. To see video of the performances go to [www.youtube.com/c/derekreinhardt](http://www.youtube.com/c/derekreinhardt).





## Carpentry Class Creates Innovative Packing Solutions Company

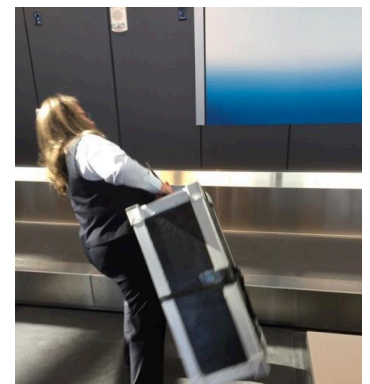
Some of you may know that here at Ness City High School our residential carpentry class was put to the task of building a suitcase, podium all in one by international key note speaker Kevin Honeycutt. So we started coming up with ideas on how to build this luggage/podium and make it as durable as possible. The first prototype we decided to build it out of the most inexpensive lightweight material we could find with that we decided on cardboard. The final prototype was sealed with Never Wet a product made by Rustoleum. The entire project was made with cardboard, cardboard corners and T-nuts and nylon webbing. After several flights the cardboard corners were showing a tremendous amount of wear.



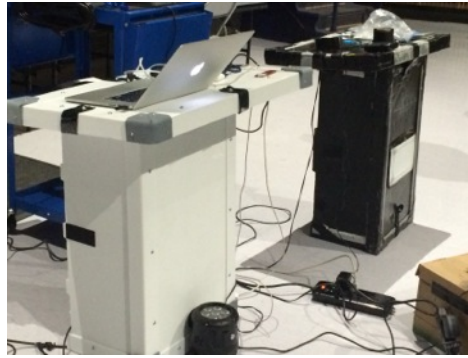
These corners were replaced with metal corners, we also replaced our webbing straps with industrial strength Velcro. Since this prototype has been released Kevin has used it to pack his clothes, gear and presented behind it at five venues and traveling twenty flights. Our second prototype is made of fluted plastic T-Nuts, fluted plastic corners, acrylic plastic, with corners webbing handles and industrial strength Velcro straps. Most of you probably wonder how this project is converted from a suitcase to a podium. This is a simple design, the lid of the suitcase detaches and velcros on to the top of the suitcase. This group of young men had no idea what they were getting into when this project started they thought they were asked to make a box. The project has evolved into much more than that. They have done drafting design to make the templates for the box, they have constructed, load tested, and tested products for water resistance. They have had several conference calls with Kevin discussing what was working and what wasn't. They created their own advertising, used social media to promote the product, and developed a website. These are not typical practices in shop class but we hope for it to become the norm. To follow our endeavors check out (<http://www.innovativepackingsolution.com/>) or on twitter @inovativepack or @brent\_kerr1 Our tweets can also be seen on the USD 303 and NCHS/JH twitter page. This product has been in front of thousands of people! That statement reminds me of one last story. Kevin called and asked if I could

round up the group to talk with him and a few other people. We had talked about 5 minutes when Kevin ask what our price point of this product would be and one of the students jokingly said \$1000.00 the others on the other side of the video chat erupted with laughter and that is when we found out we were talking to 400+ teachers in Minnesota.

Our product is one-of-a-kind, something you most likely won't find anywhere else. We have constructed this unique box that we call the "Godium". We have all kinds of features for the Godium like the water resistant coating that we have



sprayed on the outside, the easy access lid attached with industrial grade Velcro. we can also add a water resistant plug-in to add electricity. The Godium, it is a lightweight, multipurpose, everyday innovative way to travel with style! If you have any doubts ask our friend, Kevin Honeycutt!



## 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, & 12<sup>th</sup> Grade English

This semester in 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade English, students have tackled some tough topics. Students in the eighth grade finished up their study of a novel titled *Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry* by Mildred Taylor. The story follows the struggles of a black family living in Mississippi during the 1930s. 17 students rated the book a 5 out of 5, with 2 giving it a 4—they really enjoyed reading about the mischievous Logan children; but they also loved the opportunity to debate about decisions the children made. This novel provided students with an excellent opportunity to put themselves in another’s shoes. My sophomores have been closely studying *Fahrenheit 451*, a futuristic novel written by Ray Bradbury in the 1950s. This text was challenging for the students, but provided ample discussion topics, especially—Where is our world heading? How is technology helping/harming our society? What similarities are there between our world and this futuristic, superficial society that Bradbury paints such a vivid picture of?

The following text is an example essay from Madison Seery, a sophomore, and her analysis of the novel’s message and implications within our own society.

*A world revolving around insignificant things to dictate our happiness.* Though Bradbury predicted this to be our world in 2022, in more ways than one, we’re already there.

Our world is perpetually becoming further desensitized. As individuals, we are becoming more self-absorbed, and in turn, becoming less concerned with the world and everything within it, excluding ourselves. We so often see the world as we wish it to be, and overlook the world as it really is. We ignore the things in the world we would rather not exist, perhaps to convince ourselves the world has even a glimmer of hope for salvation.

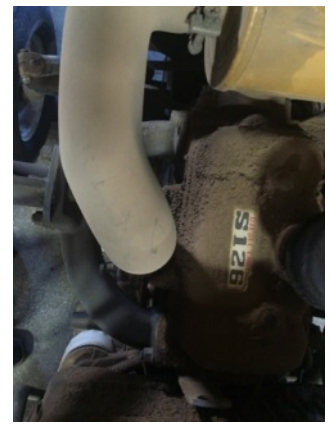
The declining of this world’s morality is resulting in the false portrayal of the world itself. There is still hope within the world, given by the people who see the world as it really is—and want to change the direction in which it is going. However, hope is declining, due to the fact that society overlooks those people and the hope they render.

People today are more concerned with the salvation of themselves, than they are with the salvation of the world.

This analysis certainly paints a bleak picture of the future of our society and its future. Several students fully engaged in the reading of this novel, asking themselves the questions that we should all be taking a closer look at: Is this really our future? And: How can we change the path that we're on?

### **USD 303 Selling Excess Equipment**

The Board of Education has approved the sale of a 5020 Allis Chalmers Tractor. The tractor is in running order. The 2 cylinder Diesel Motor has approximately 730 hours on it. The tractor will come with a lawn plugger, front blade, and a mower deck. The district has not used the machine for sometime necessitating the need to sell it. For more information, contact the District Office at 785 798-2210



### **Eagle Hats**

The High School Athletic Department is selling Eagle Hats. The hats are a flex fit Under Armour hat with the Eagle embroidered on the Front and Ness City Embroidered on the back. Sizes range from XS to XL. Price for the hats is \$30. We have a handful of each size in stock and can order more.



### **FACS Classes**

Several of the Family and Consumer Science classes meet every other day rather than every day this year. This is a change and involves the Junior High FACS (7th grade), Intro to Human Services (8<sup>th</sup> grade), and Nutrition and Wellness (9<sup>th</sup> grade) classes. The Family Studies, Consumer and Personal Finance, and Career and Community Connections classes continue to meet each day. The Family Studies students have been exploring the importance of positive communication among family members in order to maintain a strong family unit. They are currently exploring the affect of neglect and abuse in families.



Exploring the services of financial institutions and practicing checkbook skills have kept the Consumer & Personal Finance busy. At the present time they are practicing their checkbook skills both manually and with an online simulation.

The 7th grade class has recently been identifying some of their personal values and the importance of staying true to themselves rather than being concerned with popularity. The students are now creating some foods in the kitchen while practicing correct cooking and safety and sanitation rules.

After exploring career skills needed for careers on the Human Services pathway the Introduction to Human Services class explored heredity and environmental influences on their relationships within the family and friendships. This class is also involved in some food preparation.

The Career and Community Connections students are currently compiling research for an in depth Career Investigation project. They are also preparing to work with teachers in various grade school classrooms. This will be done as a class project but students will treat the assignment as if each is a hired employee for their assigned teacher.

## **FCCLA**

During buffer week, November 9-13, the NCHS FCCLA chapter held two fun activities for the NCHS students-- Iron-Man Volleyball and Powder Puff Football. On Tuesday, November 10, three teams of high school boys competed in the Iron Man Volleyball tournament, which was won by the Itsy Bitsy Spikers. On Friday, the excitement was on the Eagle football field where the senior/freshman team defeated sophomore/junior team in overtime of the Powder Puff football game.

On Thursday, December 17, the chapter will be hosting a Christmas party for the USD 303 Faculty and Staff as well as having a chapter party and a Christmas gift exchange.

## **Board Approves Formation of Foundation for Education to Secure 501c3 Status**

At its regular Board Meeting December 14, the USD 303 Board of Education approved the creation of a Foundation for Education. This Foundation will be tasked with securing 501c3 Non-Profit status, and work to secure additional funding for district programs and projects through grants and donations.

Many individuals understand that schools are a tax exempt entity, but that does not qualify them as Non-Profit. The formation of this Foundation with a 501c3 status will allow donors to obtain more tax deductions and make the district eligible for more grants. The Foundation will be overseen by a five member board. If you would be interested in participating in this foundation as a board member, please contact Mr. Reinhardt at 798-2210.

## **High School Boys' Basketball**

This year's basketball season is underway for the Eagles, and features one of the largest teams the Eagle boys have fielded in the past several years with a total of 23 players. Both the junior varsity and varsity teams have started the season well: JV boys have played and won two games, while varsity boys have also maintained an

undefeated streak early in the season. Varsity boys opened their season with a road win at Macksville--the first time the Eagles have won there in Coach Matt Overlease's six years as head coach.

Following their victory at Macksville, the Eagle boys dominated at the Purple and Gold tournament in Wakeeney. The boys defeated both Hodgeman County and Lacrosse to play an extremely quick and talented Victoria team. Although Victoria took a 3-point lead late in the game, the Eagles battled back with determination and grit to secure overtime. The boys fought on to win a close game as well as the Purple and Gold Tournament Championship. Following these away games, the team also started their season at home with a win against Hodgeman County December 15.

With such a large number of boys out, practice has been competitive and the athletes continue to push one another in practice each and every day. The team would like to thank parents, students and members of the "Blue Crew", fans, and community members for their fervent support in kicking off this year's season.

### **NCHS Holds First (We Hope to Be Annual) All Student Breakfast**

When you hear a good idea, you know right away it is something you have to try. When searching for a way to bring the High School and Junior High School students together for some comradely and school unity, Cicely Moody became intrigued by a tradition Mr. Allen had shared about his High School. The idea started small and eventually grew into what became NCHS First All Student Breakfast. Students were asked to bring typical breakfast items that would be prepared before school on the last day of the semester. Well before 7:00 am on December 17, students began arriving at school to help prepare the meal. Students mixed pancake batter, chopped potatoes, onions, and peppers, scrambled eggs, and prepared the cafeteria for an awesome breakfast. Cole Rupp worked hard to grill all 50 lbs. of sausage (Thank you Harvey and Southfork) and stay warm in the freezing morning air. Pancakes were made (Thanks Coach Starr for the use of your griddle!). In all, over 150 students and over 30 staff members enjoyed a great breakfast prepared and served by our outstanding student body. We hope to make this an annual tradition! A big thank you to Jess Cupp, Debra Clark, and Meghan Rupp for your help and use of the kitchen.

