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# EAGLE PROFILE

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## Pre-Schoolers Begin Global Pen Pal Project by Brenda Horchem and Lesa Schulte



Ness City Preschoolers are participating in a global pen pal exchange. Mrs. Horchem's and Mrs. Schulte's classes have been busy drawing pictures and writing short stories to introduce the children in other countries to our town.

The project started because of a challenge to include our children in activities that would educate them about people around the world and not just our Ness City community. We started by taking photos of buildings, businesses, and daily school activities. The students became illustrators of our pages and drew pictures about the photos. They then wrote short stories about their pictures. The pictures were bound together to make a book.

Our first book is on its way to China. We are hoping that the school in China will in turn educate us on their town. The preschoolers have been excited about this project.



Pre-School Students  
work on their Global  
Pen Pal Project

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## The Quest to Find Relevant, Rigorous, and Real World Tasks in the Math Classroom by Bruce Buethe

As I continue on my journey of incorporating more Project Based Learning in my classroom, one of the challenges has been finding tasks that students can cooperate together on, while at the same time producing a finished project that was distinctly their own. To that end, a project I have started is construction of paper based cranks and cams. After working in pairs to build from a set of paper instructions, one partner than had to build a new one shrunk to a scale of one half, while the other had to enlarge to a scale of one and one half. Students had to do all the necessary constructions and calculations. Further, the students had to end up with a functioning machine. If the first attempt was not perfect, they had to modify until it did work. Students learned how simple geometry could help them avoid complicated calculations, how

changes in scale factor of dimensions results in different scale factors for area and volume, and that attention to precision and detail in their work saved a lot of time at the end. The plans and extension ideas came from the Engineering by Design materials and training that I have been fortunate to receive from ESSDACK the last couple years. The students did an amazing job and exceeded my expectations! I will continue to find more projects like this to give our students more hands on math experiences.

**NCHS Students Produce Mural for NCES Hallway** by Catherine McIntosh

High school artists are in the final stages of completing a 4x16 foot mural to be installed at the Ness City Grade School. Each student choose a word they felt held a positive meaning and then created distinctive graffiti style lettering. Learning to paint and work together on a cooperative piece of art was a valuable learning experience. In addition to the mural, students are painting motivational words and quotes in various places around the grade school. The Industrial Technology classes will be installing the mural boards in the near future.



Above: NCHS Students work to finalize the mural that will be placed in the NCES Hallway

**AHOY MATEY!** by Carrie Beutler and Elaine Weirman

There were All Hands On Deck for the Ness City All School production of “Jolly Roger and the Pirate Queen” written by Craig Sodaro and produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc. Blocking, a term to describe the precise staging of actors in order to facilitate the performance of a play, took many hard-working, early morning and late evening practices.

The plot summary of the play was about the Gentleman Roger Goodman who has every intention of living his life in a conventional way once he marries the wealthy Sarah Huffington... that is, until he overhears her telling her girlfriends how boring he is! The man Sarah really wants to marry is a dashing, daring pirate! Willing to walk the plank for love, Roger immediately buys a ship, recruits a crew and even hires a pirate

Below: Cast Members prepare their “Pirate” Ship for the high seas





tutor, Long John Sliver, to show him the ropes! Sliver toughens him up and bequeaths him a new, menacing name — Captain Blood, as well as an intimidating ship name and flag to match. In return, Roger must sail him to Treasure Island to pick up eight chests of gold doubloons. Meanwhile, Sarah has gone off the deep end, as well. Knowing she won't find a pirate unless she becomes one, she makes herself into the Pirate Queen and quickly earns a notorious reputation for raiding ship after ship. Wouldn't you know, Sarah's parents are also out on the high seas in their own ship. As luck would have it, they all congregate on Treasure Island, which is already occupied by the retired pirate Bluebeard and his crew. Ahoy, mateys! That's too many pirates for one landmass, and the hilarious loose cannons explode! Of course, the Huffingtons and Roger don't recognize one another until the very last moment, promising treasure chests of swashbuckling suspense and laughter along the way! This was directed by Elaine Wierman and assisted by Carrie Beutler. The following were the cast members: Roger Goodman-Landon Reinhardt, George-John Pfannenstiel, Kate-Jocelyn Walker, Belinda- Makenzie Flax, Sarah Huffington-Jaiden Pavlu, Lord Hector Huffington-Clay Beutler, Claude-Angel Guzman, Maude-Angelena Copeland, Snaggle-Alysson Foos, Parrot -Westin Slagle, Sneak-Baylee Holecek, Snoot-Miriam Guzman, Long John Sliver-Trevor VanDegrift, Laverne-Cicely Moody, Shirley-Savannah Moore, Captain Belvedere-Kris Liggett, Kiki-Janate' Kerr, Bluebeard-Kaydan Smith, Miki-Audrey Pavlu, Creaky-Janessa Briney, Smudge-Rhett Moody, Dandy-Kyla Stephen, Lady Emma Huffington-Jaymi Stewart, Lights and Sound-Brennan Chacon and Mario Luna. Also there were extra teachers and staff to aid in the production and they were:

Shane Quigley (stage setup), Brent Kerr and his shop class (props)

Ira Stull (stage setup), Jaymi Stewart (set design), Jennifer Stoss (tickets), Catherine McIntosh (set design instruction)

and Michelle Stephen and Trina Coast(crafting swords).

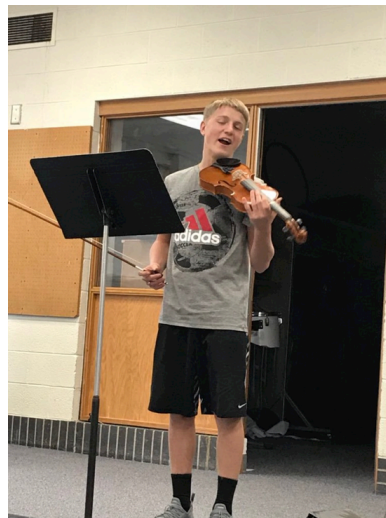
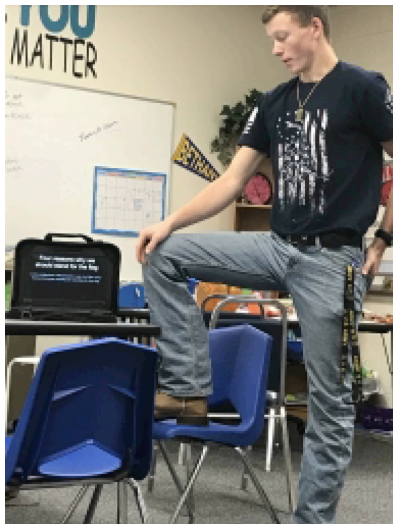
It was a Yo Ho Ho kind of play!



## High School Students Explore Their Passions in ELA Class by

Amanda Buethe

High school students are learning to find their passions, and incorporate those new ideas and skills into their English Language Arts classroom. This semester sophomores were given time to explore whatever new concept they wanted to learn. At the end of the two weeks, they wrote about their learning and gave presentations. They also spent time reflecting on new goals such as the ability to problem-solve, research, share new knowledge with peers, as well as practice forming short and long-term plans. This unit was just the beginning of adding more opportunities for students to practice 21st-century learning skills needed to be successful. Projects explored included learning new languages, music, diesel mechanics, hunting, and many more.



## NCES Students Begin Civic Engagement Project by Bethyl Randa

Students at Ness City Elementary were challenged to find a way to give back to the community that has given them so much. Through surveys, four groups emerged: a group engaging with the residents at the Long Term Care facilities in Ness City, a group who wishes to improve the playground facilities at NCES, a group collecting donations for animal shelters and one group choosing to collect canned goods for the Ness County Food Bank.

The group in charge of the food drive first focused their ideas into one main goal. They then broke into groups to achieve this goal. One group had taken on the task of calling businesses and asking if collection boxes or posters can be displayed. Other groups created posters and other advertising as well as the food collection boxes. The final group took charge of contacting the Food Bank and lining up adults to help collect the food during the drive.

The Food Drive will begin in January and will run through the end of February. Collection boxes will be set up at Jamboree, G & L Pharmacy and both school offices.

### **NCJHS Ladies' Basketball** by Katren Cramer

As my first season as a basketball coach I am fortunate enough to not only have a supportive assistant coach but to have 12 awesome ladies to work with as well. Our team may be small but each girl has a lot to offer. The 8th grade girls have been great role models with their can do attitudes and their willingness to get better. Each day everyone comes in ready to work hard. They give it their all with every challenge that I throw at them. Halfway through the season the varsity has a record of 3-4 and the junior varsity has a record of 4-3. Although records are important, they do not define this team. After every game we try to watch film and see the skills that we do well and the skills that we need improvement on. Our game against Victoria was not a pretty one and we struggled overall with effort and boxing out. I can confidently say that the girls have improved immensely on those two skills during their last game before break against Wakeeney. This says a lot about the girls. They could have easily given up, but instead they overcame it and used it to fuel them to do better next time. Can't wait to see how the season unfolds.

### **NCHS Men's Basketball** by Brandt Rogers

The varsity team is 6 and 1 heading out of Christmas break. We bounced back from our lone loss against Northern Valley with a win against Hodgeman County. Then we put together two great performances against Kinsley and Ellis to end the pre-holiday season. Coming out of Christmas break, we have two tough tests right out of the gate. We will play St. John on January 5th and Spearville on January 9th.

The junior varsity team is 4 and 0 heading out of Christmas break. They have played well so far this year and are looking to continue down this road of success.

One goal we had to start the season was to finish the semester in great standing academically. The boys proved to me that they can balance the stress of basketball and classwork with pride and success. They are really excelling in the classroom, and I couldn't be any happier.

Thank you to the school, staff, students, community, cheer team, and blue crew for the support shown this season so far!

### **NCES Receives Healthy Habits for Life Grant to Help Fund Healthy Snacks**

Recognizing that school is where children spend most of their daily lives – making it an ideal place to encourage healthy habits – the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Foundation is sending \$148,757.65 in Healthy Habits for Life grants to schools in 65 Kansas counties. The 154 separate grants will help school nurses, teachers and administrators fund programs or activities in 2018 aimed at helping thousands of children reduce their cardiovascular risk, increase their physical activity or learn healthy eating habits.

"Healthy Habits for Life was the first major grant program developed by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Foundation and, 12 years later, it still fills an existing need in helping curb childhood obesity rates in Kansas," said Marlou Wegener, chief operating officer of the BCBSKS Foundation. "The Foundation's board of directors remains committed to funding at-



school health programs that a teacher or staff member might not otherwise be able to deliver due to tight budgets.

"It is our nurses, teachers and administrators who are on the front line of our collective efforts to slow the childhood obesity epidemic in Kansas," she said. "It is through their dedication that we have hope that this generation of Kansas children will learn more than reading, writing and arithmetic at school; we have hope that they also will learn the life-long healthy habits that will lead them to healthy adulthood and brighter futures."

The BCBSKS Foundation has now distributed 1,391 Healthy Habits for Life grants totaling \$1,316,341.56 during 12 giving cycles. The most recent grants will be used during 2018 for a variety of programs ranging from purchasing heart monitors, healthy snacks or nutrition curriculum, to organizing health fairs and walking programs.

The amount of each grant was based on the applicant's request for the program he or she proposed, up to a maximum of \$1,000. The school district or private school must be located in the service area of the BCBSKS Foundation (all Kansas counties except Johnson and Wyandotte).

### **NCHS Ladies' Basketball** by Shelby Heim

Assistant coach Marissa Stoecklein and I have had the opportunity to get to know and coach 18 pretty awesome ladies this 2017-2018 season. Our season might not have started off the way we all wanted, but our main focus coming out of Christmas break is getting better each and every day. These ladies have been introduced to a lot of new skills, new drills, new plays, and even new defense. They've taken all of this new information and have worked hard to put it to use in games and practices. The team has relied a lot on ladies that didn't play varsity last year, so while we might lack experience, they have been great in the way they have responded by stepping up to the new tasks and new pressures at hand. We're excited to start this next semester of the basketball season strong and see where it takes us!

We have four freshmen, Andrea Morales, Cynthia Guzman, Janessa Briney and Caitlyn Smee. These freshmen have made the big jump from junior high to high school and have responded really well. They've gained a lot of experience over this semester and are gaining basketball knowledge everyday.

For our six sophomores, we have Makenzie Flax, Ashley Foos, Summer Pfannenstiel, Makenzee Cupp, Rylee Starr, and Cassidy McGranahan. The sophomores put in a lot of time and work in the gym this summer and it definitely shows on the court. They've stepped up a lot this season and didn't complain about it.

Jenna Werth, Tiana Epperson, Jaiden Pavlu, and Alysson Foos are our juniors this season. They also put a lot of time in the gym this summer and continue to try to improve each day. A lot of ladies stepped up this season and were backup leaders when needed. They also stepped out of their comfort zone for the team.

Rounding out our senior leaders are Jocelyn Walker, Baylee Holecek, Jaymi Stewart and Cicely Moody. The seniors have stepped up to become our leaders this season knowing that they set the tone and the younger ladies respond to them. Being a leader isn't always the easiest role to step into, especially when only half played varsity last year. We're proud of how

they've handled the ups and downs of the season and we can't wait to see them finish their senior year strong.

We also can't forget about our junior manager, Virginia Schaben. She has been there when we needed her and has done whatever we've asked without complaining. We couldn't do half of what we would want to do without her and we are extremely grateful for her.

## NCHS Students Complete PBL and Soft Skill Lessons in World History

by Dawn Flax  
Do you ever have conversations like this at your house?

Mom - "So, what'd you learn at school today?"

Student - "Nothing."

Mom - "Nothing?"

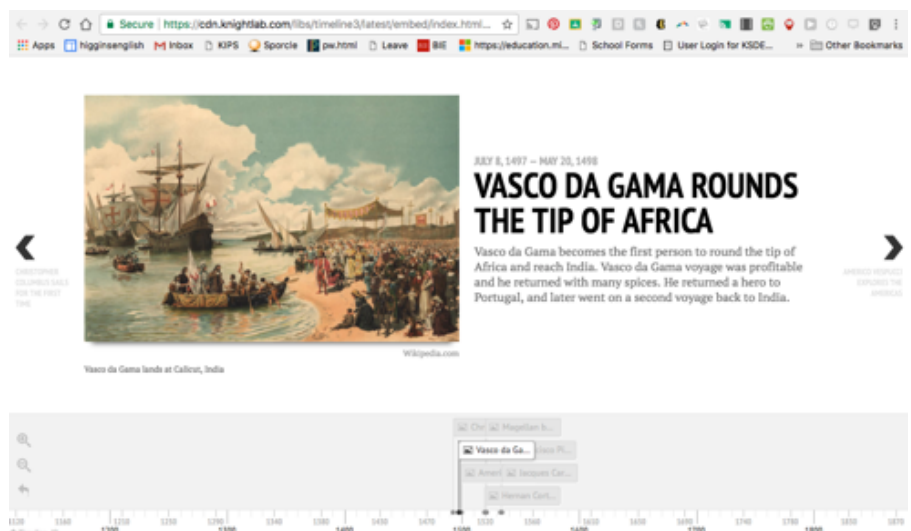
Student - "Nope."

Don't let those students fool you. They are learning. Mrs. Flax's World History students have created magazine covers about Renaissance figures, pictorial timelines about the voyages of men like Christopher Columbus, Vasco de Gama and Ferdinand Magellan using a pretty cool online platform at [knightlab.northwestern.edu](http://knightlab.northwestern.edu), and they've worked on soft skills by presenting information to their classmates about various religious celebrations around the world. Some of them even brought food or drinks to represent the holiday. In 7th grade Social Studies, students worked in groups to create their own countries, in which they picked a location and had to develop a country that had resources, plant life and wildlife that would be supported in that environment, because you know a polar bear won't survive in the wild in the Caribbean. They were also given the task to research a culture and create a Barbie (or Action Figure) that represented that culture, extra points were given if a student actually brought a Barbie (or Action Figure) that represented the culture. Most of the activities that they do require research and technology, and our students are so fortunate to have access to the tools they need. Moving forward into the 2nd semester, students will continue to use technology to access information, work in groups, dig deeper to solve problems and develop useful skills that will allow them to succeed in their future endeavors.



Above: Cultural Barbie Created by Andrea Lopez

Below: Sophomores Created Timelines About Exploration and Expansion



## Ness County Coalition Receives Sizable Grant to Combat Teenage Drug and Alcohol Use

Each year, the schools in Ness County participate in the Kansas Communities That Care (KCTC) Survey. Students in 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grade are given the survey that asks a series of questions that focus on Demographic and School Climate, Peer Influences, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use, Community Based Perceptions, Family Domain, and Risk and Protective Factors. This survey is 100% anonymous and designed to weed out outliers or students that do not answer the questions honestly. Because of these factors, the KCTC Survey has been deemed a very reliable and valuable tool for schools and communities.

Due to high indicators of substance abuse amongst Ness County students, the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) awarded the Ness County Coalition a 5 year grant worth in excess of \$30,000 annually to combat these issues. With the help of the Ness County Coalition, the schools in Ness County have begun better utilizing the data from the KCTC to develop a focus for planning, establish a baseline and track our progress, and build student, parent, and public awareness of what the youth of our County are doing and the risks involved in those behaviors. It is our goal as a Coalition and Educational Systems to provide the best possible environment for the youth of our County, and provide them with the knowledge and tools they need to successfully navigate the world in which they live.

The data from our recent KCTC surveys tell a troubling story, and speaks loudly about why it is important for our entire County to take a serious look at what we are currently doing and what needs to change. The following Data Points are a five year average of the answers all 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th graders in Ness County provided through the survey compared to the State average:

### Lifetime Use of Alcohol

|   |              |                               |
|---|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Tried at least once (a full drink)            | 52.12%       | Ness County                   |
|   | 35.62%       | State Wide                    |
|   | 73.71%       | Ness County 12th Graders      |
|   | 63.52%       | State Wide 12th Graders       |
| 40 or more drinks in lifetime                 | 10%          | Ness County                   |
|   | 4.27%        | State Wide                    |
|   | 17.31%       | Ness County 10th/12th graders |
|   | 8.69%        | State Wide 10th/12th graders  |
| Alcohol Use Last 30 days                      | 27.59%       | Ness County                   |
|   | 41.1%        | Ness County 10th/12th graders |
|   | 18.51%       | State Wide                    |
|   | 31.9%        | State 10th/12th graders       |
| Average Age of 1st time use (more than a sip) | 13.5 yrs old | Ness County                   |
|   | 13.1 yrs old | State Wide                    |

### Student Perception of Alcohol

|                                      |        |             |
|--------------------------------------|--------|-------------|
| Perceived Availability               |        |             |
| Little to No Problem Getting Alcohol | 45.86% | Ness County |
|                                      | 40.27% | State Wide  |



|  |        |             |
|--|--------|-------------|
| Perception of Parental Attitude Toward Alcohol |        |             |
| Little to Not Wrong at All for Child to Drink  | 17.5%  | Ness County |
|  | 12.26% | State Wide  |
| Perception of Other Adults Toward Alcohol      |        |             |
| Little to Not Wrong at All for Child to Drink  | 18.86% | Ness County |
|  | 16.35% | State Wide  |
| Perception of Risk of Drinking Alcohol         |        |             |
| Little to No Risk of Harm by Drinking          | 40.79% | Ness County |
|  | 33.94% | State Wide  |
| Perception of Appearance of those that Drink   |        |             |
| Very Cool to Pretty Cool                       | 20.99% | Ness County |
|  | 10.2%  | State Wide  |
| Perception of Clear Parental Rules of Drinking |        |             |
| No Parental Rules                              | 14.72% | Ness County |
|  | 16%    | State Wide  |

Other than a couple of areas, Ness County performs above the State Average in areas that we don't want to out perform the State. Many will say that alcohol is a right of passage, we did it when we were teenagers, or there isn't anything else for our children to do. These are the types of attitudes that allow problems like substance abuse to grow. When our children believe that adults support this behavior, that they won't get in trouble, that there are no guiding rules, or their perception is that alcohol does not present any risk to their health or well being, a culture of use and abuse grows. This type of culture puts the youth of Ness County in danger for many lifelong health and social issues.

One issue that has grown over the last several years is the prevalence of depression and suicide. KCTC data shows a strong link between depression and suicidal symptoms and alcohol use. In most cases, children that use alcohol are more than twice as likely to have depression or suicidal symptoms than children that don't use alcohol. The alcohol data is very concerning for Ness County, but the growing issues of depression and suicidal symptoms in our children is even more concerning. The following data represents a two year average for Ness County Students in 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th grade:

Depression

During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities? (signs of depression)

|        |             |
|--------|-------------|
| 27.79% | Ness County |
| 25.87% | State Wide  |

Suicide

Have you ever seriously thought about killing yourself in the last year?

|        |             |
|--------|-------------|
| 14.27% | Ness County |
| 14.04% | State Wide  |

Have you ever tried to kill yourself?

|       |             |
|-------|-------------|
| 7.9%  | Ness County |
| 4.32% | State Wide  |

What can we do as parents and community members? We first have to work to change the perceptions of alcohol in our communities. Our children need to understand that the use of alcohol, even in moderation, carries many risks for our health, social standing, and future (work, school, scholarship, etc). As parents, we need to make sure we set rules and expectations for our children, and our children must know what these rules and expectations are. As a community, we need to make it difficult for our children to obtain alcohol, and hold those accountable that provide it for our children. And finally, we need to show our children that there are alternatives to having fun that do not include alcohol and drugs. While many of the areas discussed in this article have shown a decline over the last two years, we are not out of the woods yet. It will take all of us working together to create the best possible environment and culture for our children.

For more information about the data provided, visit [www.kctcdata.org](http://www.kctcdata.org).



**Is that what you had in mind when the party started?**

Things you'd never do sober seem like a great idea when you're drunk. So in addition to a terrible hangover, you may be dealing with regret, embarrassment, damaged relationships and worse.

**Stay in control by staying sober. It Matters.**

**every choice It Matters**  
itmattersks.org  
24/7 Help 1-800-273-TALK

Ness County Coalition  
785-798-3388  
nchd2@gbta.net

### 3rd Graders Have a Busy Semester


In Mrs. Tillitson's third grade class students have been busy! Over the course of October and November, students participated in the Global Read Aloud by reading, The Wild Robot by Peter Brown. During this project, our class connected with 15 3rd-5th grade classes within the United States as well as a few throughout the world. Students had a competition to build the main character, Roz, a shelter to weather various types of storms. They also camouflaged Roz to increase her survivability rate. In December we collaborated with pre-kindergarten thru senior English students to create a one-of-a-kind, Ness City gingerbread community. Everything from homes and our school to the elevator and the bank building were represented using graham crackers, icing, and pretty much anything that could be classified as candy. Third grade chose to create the First Baptist Church.

Finally, if you ask any of our nine third grade students, they will readily tell you how hard they have been working on learning multiplication. They have already mastered a significant amount of their multiplication facts and are ready to begin applying these skills to calculating area and perimeter.

**ASK:** How will you design and create a camouflage disguise for Roz?

**IMAGINE:** Which colors, shapes, or materials can you use? Brainstorm at least two ideas.

**PLAN:** Choose the idea you think is best. Draw a sketch of the camouflage design on Roz below. Label the drawing.



**CREATE & TEST:** Create the camouflage. How well does the disguise blend with its surroundings?

**IMPROVE:** Can you make the camouflage better?

**REFLECT:** What is the most important part of the camouflage in your opinion?

*Handwritten notes:*  
 - roof and - Prittle Good  
 - less green more darknes.  
 - the sticks.





## **JH Men's Basketball** by Bill Allen

The Ness City Junior High basketball team is working hard this season. The junior high Eagles basketball team has 19 players out this year. We have seen the students improve every week in every aspect of the game.

Going into Christmas break, the varsity team had one loss on the season so far. They have battled hard and learn how to win close games. The junior varsity is 4 - 3 going into Christmas break.

We are very fortunate to have Brent Stoss help us coach this year. He has done a great job working with the students and help the students learn the skills they need to help them at the next level. As a group, we are working hard on making sure that any comment that is made always stays positive. It is very easy to get frustrated when things aren't going as planned. We try to explain to the players to never bring the other players down when this happens.

Brent Stoss and I have enjoyed coaching the players this year because of how hard they work everyday. The 8th graders have done a great job of being positive role models to for the seventh graders. As an overall group, it is amazing to see how far we have come in a short time. I would like to thank the parents and high school basketball teams for all of the support this season.

## **KAY CLUB BEGINS BUSY SCHOOL YEAR** by Val Kepple

The Ness City High School KAY Club is off to a great start. The officers hosted a come-and-go informational meeting on September 21, 2017, after lunch. The officers gave out ice-cream sandwiches for those interested in joining. A total of 29 students signed up. The Kansas Association of Youth (KAY) Clubs are sponsored by the Kansas State High School Activities Association and promote character-building and service programs.

The KAY's have already purchased tissues for classroom use and will continue to do so throughout the year. This is made possible largely due to money raised through the Boxtops for Education coupons that patrons clip and generously donate to the KAY Club. The KAYs then count, bag and send these coupons in to the General Mills Company, and are reimbursed for each coupon.

For the 2017-2018 school year, the KAYs have committed to also continuing the recycling program. Special containers have been purchased for each classroom for students to place their discarded paper. Several times a month, KAY volunteers pick up the recycling and take it to the recycling center. This service project is one that the KAY members feel is very important.

KAY Officers are: President – Cicely Moody, Vice President – Baylee Holecek, Secretary/Treasurer – Miriam Guzman, Point Director – Kerri Bruntz, Co-Directors of Community Service – Taylor Murray and Mario Luna, Director of School Service – Madison Seery, Director of Publicity – Tiana Epperson

## **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. The USD 303 Board of Education will be reviewing our local policy at their February 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. meeting. The public is invited to attend.

## **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.

## **BUILDING REPORT CARD**

Information on counties, districts, and schools in the State of Kansas can be found online. Information includes data on: building/districts, staff and salary information, attendance, schedules, enrollment, dropout/graduation, vocational education, discipline, advanced courses, student improvement plans, and student satisfaction. Data relating to Ness City Schools (and all other schools in the state of Kansas) can be found at <http://ksreportcard.ksde.org>