

# U.S.D. #289 Newsletter

March, 2008 | Volume 35, Issue 8 | Superintendent Denise O'Dea

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## Mark Your Calendars

### March 3

MS Track Practice Begins  
HS Site Council  
HS Booster Club Meeting

### March 6

MS Spring Pictures  
Wellsville Night @  
Red Robin in Olathe

### March 7

End of 3rd 9 weeks

### March 10

MS Booster Club Meeting

### March 11

Winter Sports Banquet

### March 14

ECSE Screening  
HS Spring Play

### March 15

HS Spring Play

### March 17 - 21

Spring Break

### March 24

MS Site Council  
BOE Meeting

### March 27

Kdg Orientation

## Spring Time Testing.....

If you have a child in grades 3-8 or high school, you know that each spring brings with it "Testing Time". Well, that time is quickly approaching once again for our students to take the *required* state assessments for various grade levels in reading, math, science, and social studies.

While state assessments have always been a part of the picture, they have taken on significant importance with the passage of the No Child Left Behind federal legislation and Adequate Yearly Progress. Schools across the state are judged SOLELY on progress on the state assessments. In a smaller school, if one or two students in any sub-category does poorly, the school does not make AYP for that year. ALL students are required to take the state assessments as no exceptions are granted.

The current state assessment program began about 12 years ago with the lofty goal of improving instruction for Kansas kids. The tests were designed to measure how students thought and problem-solved. Over time, these tests have evolved, mainly due to the passage of the "No Child Left Behind" federal law. The federal government passed laws that require each state to develop tests and, by the year 2014, be sure that every child is scoring at a proficient level or above on these tests.


Students will be tested in reading and math at every grade level 3-8, and once during the high school years in reading and math (probably the 10th and 11th grades). NEW this year will be mandatory state testing in the areas of science and social studies. The science assessment will be given to students in grades 4, 7, some 10<sup>th</sup>, and all 11<sup>th</sup>. The social studies assessment will be given to students in grades 6, 8, and 11.

While our staff are doing everything in their power to gear themselves and our students up for taking state assessments, there are simple things you can do at home to prepare your child for these important tests:

1. Ensure your child gets a good night's sleep.
2. Have your child eat a good breakfast the mornings of the tests.
3. Encourage your child to take the tests seriously and do their best.

The testing dates for all the state assessments are March 3 - April 30. Because all students take the assessments on the computer, times will need to be coordinated so computers are free for usage. Individual schools in the district will be posting the specific tests and the dates they will be administered. You can contact your child's school for specific dates or check the website for testing dates/times.

Good luck to all our students as they beginning "testing time"!

.....Denise O'Dea, Superintendent 

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

Board of Education Minutes are posted to the district web site.

**wellsville-usd289.org**

If you do not have access to the internet, please contact Gwen Boone, Clerk of the Board, at 602 Walnut Street in the District Offices, or call her at 785-883-2388, ext. 3131. She will provide you with a written copy of the minutes.

## **WELLSVILLE EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING Friday, March 14, 2008**

The East Central Kansas Cooperative in Education and USD #289 provide a free developmental screening for children ages 3-5 who live within the Wellsville school district. Screenings are conducted once each month and appointments are necessary. This month's screening will be held on Friday, March 14, 2008. The screening includes evaluation of hearing, vision, speech, language, thinking skills, coordination, social skills and self help skills. If you wish to make an appointment to have your child screened, or if you have any questions or concerns about your child's development, please contact Katie Fender, preschool teacher, at 883-2996 x1212

## **PARENT GROUP Friday, March 7, 2008**

The First Friday Parent Group is a parent supervised play group for 3, 4, and 5 year olds not already in the school system, parents are free to bring younger siblings. Please call Katie, at 883-2996 ext 1212 to reserve a spot. Space is limited!

## **High School Career Fair**

Submitted by Sheldon Pokorney, HS principal

Wellsville High School was the site of a Career Fair on February 20. The Career Fair has been a tradition for a number of years as an every other year activity rotating between Baldwin, Eudora, and Wellsville. With the junior classes from Baldwin and Eudora present, along with the entire Wellsville High School student body, nearly 500 students were in the building on this date.

The day began with a welcome from superintendent Denise O'Dea. Keynote speaker Tom Holland then followed with a motivational message to the students. Students were sent to three 40 minute sessions dealing with different occupations. There seemed to be something that interested every student. Over 50 topics with many offered more than once were available for the students to attend. The occupational speakers spoke on careers in areas such as architecture, excavation/heavy equipment, graphic arts/photography, sports medicine, welding, nursing, dental assistance, culinary arts, auto mechanics, radio, firefighting, teaching, veterinary medicine, cosmetology, law enforcement, public relations, military, interior design, and numerous technological offerings. Students then rotated to sessions that included the Lansing Correctional Facility Inmate speakers and a college fair with over 50 colleges, universities, other postsecondary schools represented.

Although Career Day was a huge undertaking and involved months of planning, it was a great success and I think very beneficial for the students. I would like to recognize counselor Emily McCullough, high school business teacher Dawn Rottinghaus and vocational coordinator Sheila VanderTuig for the organization. I would also like to thank food service director Melinda Bouse and her staff for feeding over 600 people, maintenance director Kip Rush and his staff for preparing the school for all the activity, and the Wellsville Booster Club for baking over 1000 cookies to serve in the hospital-ity room. I would like to also extend thanks to all the speakers and college reps and those from local businesses for taking time from their day to make this event the success it was.



## **IN THE SPOTLIGHT - Sixth Grade Testing/Incentives**

Submitted by Darrell Burgoon, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science

In April, the sixth grade will be taking assessments for both math and reading. The sixth grade teachers are planning a "funny money" auction for students who show their best effort on the state assessments. We are hoping that this will be a way to motivate students to do their very best on both tests. There will be an auction with different items that the students will be able to bid on with their money. There will be a variety of treats and trinkets for the students to buy, but not all of the items will just be store-bought. The students will be able to buy a free pass on an assignment, be a teacher's aide for a day, or even get a double lunchtime, just to name a few items that will be auctioned.

If any businesses or individuals in the community would be interested in donating items for the students to bid on it would be greatly appreciated! You can call the school and ask for any of the following teachers: Darrell Burgoon, Dana Barker, Don Currier, or Joyce Lawyer. We are hoping that this will not only be a motivating experience for the students to do well on assessments, but also be a fun time that they will remember forever!

## March is National Nutrition Month®

National Nutrition Month® is a nutrition education and information campaign created by the American Dietetic Association. The campaign is designed to focus attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. The theme for this year is *Nutrition: It's a Matter of Fact*. To find out more information on National Nutrition Month®, articles, and fact sheets visit <http://www.eartright.org>

### Top 10 Nutrition Facts From the ADA

1. Eating right doesn't have to be complicated. Use Mypyramid.gov to develop a personalized plan for lifelong health.
2. The best nutrition advice is based on science. Before adopting any changes to your diet, be sure the information is based in scientific fact.
3. Get your food and nutrition facts from the expert: a registered dietitian. Registered Dietitians are uniquely qualified to translate the science of nutrition into reliable advice you can use every day.
4. Balancing physical activities and a healthful diet is your best recipe for managing weight and promoting overall health and fitness.
5. Think nutrient-rich rather than "good" or "bad" foods. The majority of your food choices should be packed with vitamins, minerals, fiber and other nutrients — and lower in calories.
6. Look at the big picture: No single food or meal makes or breaks a healthful diet. Your total diet is the most important focus for healthful eating.
7. Prepare, handle and store food properly to keep you and your family safe from food-borne illness.
8. Don't fall prey to food myths and misinformation that may harm rather than benefit your health.
9. Read food labels to get nutrition facts that help you make smart food choices quickly and easily.
10. Find the healthy fats when making food choices. By choosing polyunsaturated or monounsaturated fats, you can keep your saturated fats, trans fats and cholesterol low.

### Guitar Lessons

There has been a big demand for a guitar teacher for beginning guitar students. If you have experience with the guitar and would be interested in teaching a few beginning guitar students please contact Carrie Dawn Myers at 883-2996 Ext. 1226. Thank you!

### ELEMENTARY NEWS — CALLING ALL KIDS UNDER AGE SIX

Submitted by Randy Renoud, Elementary Principal

**Kindergarten Orientation** for the parents of children who will be five on or before August 31, 2008 will be held on Thursday, March 27 in the WES cafeteria. This one hour meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. and should be attended by the child as well as the parent(s).

**Kindergarten Roundup** will be held on Friday, May 2. Any child who plans to attend Kindergarten this fall should be scheduled for this screening (screening times will be assigned at the March 27 orientation). Children must be five years of age before August 31 to be eligible to enter kindergarten. Questions may be directed to Mr. Renoud at 883-2996 ext. 3112.

One of the most critical decisions a parent will make regarding a student's success in school is determining when they should start. Not every child is ready for kindergarten simply because they are "old" enough to attend. We will give a battery of assessments that will indicate each student's level of "kindergarten readiness". This information will be shared with parents to assist in determining when a student is ready to begin their formal educational years.



# March 2008

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Activities Hot lines:  
 High School - Ext. 3801  
 Middle School - Ext. 3802  
 Elementary - Ext. 3803

1  
 •History Day @ Fort Scott CC  
 •Forensics @ Desoto 7:30pm  
 •Sub-State G/B BB Wellsville 6:00-7:30

2

3  
 •MS Track Practice Begins  
 •HS Site Council 6pm  
 •WHS Booster Club Meeting 7pm

4  
 •MS Instrumental Music 7pm KD Gym

5  
 •Dance Team Tryout Clinic 5:30-8:00pm Blue Gym

6  
 •MS Spring Pictures  
 •Dance Team Tryouts 6pm Red Gym  
 •Wellsville Night @ Olathe Red Robin 4-9pm

7  
 •End of 3rd 9 Weeks Early Release HS & MS - 11:15  
 Elem - 11:25

8  
 •Forensics @ Paola

9

10  
 •WMS Booster Club Meeting 7pm

11  
 •Winter Sports Banquet HS Commons 6pm

12  
 •MS Leadership Series  
 •Franklin County Literacy Festival 3-5pm @ Ottawa

13

14  
 •ECSE Screening  
 •HS Spring Play HS Commons 7pm

15  
 •HS Spring Play HS Commons 7pm

16  
 •Dance Team Parent Meeting 3pm

17  
 Spring Break - March 17-21

18

19

20

21

22

23  
 EASTER

24  
 •MS Site Council 5:30pm  
 •BOE Meeting 7:30

25  
 •HS Track Snowball Relays 4pm

26  
 State FBLA

27  
 •HS B BB (VarØH) vs. McLouth(H) 4:30pm  
 •Kdg Orientation 6:30

28  
 •HS Track Baldwin Inv 3:30pm

29  
 •Regional Music @ Iola  
 •Pioneer League Forensics @ Wellsville 7:30am  
 •KCATM Math Contest @ BVNW

## Six Pillars of Character

Submitted by Kris Kehl, activities director

One of the greatest strengths of a person should be their character. Character is defined as “combined moral or ethical structure of a person or group” and “moral excellence and firmness”. Education’s goal is to prepare our nation’s youth to be productive and knowledgeable adults. Students need to know and appreciate the “reading, writing and arithmetic” skills that are taught to them. But also important to the success of all of our students is the development of their character. But character isn’t tested with the state’s standardized tests. Schools don’t offer Character 101 classes. Teachers do speak to kids about the importance of character, but we don’t teach it.

This is my effort to offer the basics of what character is and what parents might do to reinforce the importance of character to their child/children. Perhaps you will keep the bottom portion and display it in a prominent place where you and your child/children can review and discuss the importance of having good character. Listed below are the Six Pillars of Character:

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### Six Pillars of Character

#### Trustworthiness

Be honest • Don’t deceive, cheat or steal • Be reliable — do what you say you’ll do • Have the courage to do the right thing • Build a good reputation • Be loyal — stand by your family, friends and country

#### Respect

Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule • Be tolerant of differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Don’t threaten, hit or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements

#### Responsibility

Do what you are supposed to do • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do your best • Use self-control • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act — consider the consequences • Be accountable for your choices

#### Fairness

Play by the rules • Take turns and share • Be open-minded; listen to others • Don’t take advantage of others • Don’t blame others carelessly

#### Caring

Be kind • Be compassionate and show you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in need

#### Citizenship

Do your share to make your school and community better • Cooperate • Get involved in community affairs • Stay informed; vote • Be a good neighbor • Obey laws and rules • Respect authority • Protect the environment





## AFTER PROM PARTY APRIL 19<sup>th</sup> 2008



The Wellsville High School Booster Club is organizing an After Prom Party on April 19, 2008 from 12:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. We offer a drug and alcohol free, safe party for the juniors and seniors of Wellsville High School and their dates. We provide games, activities, food and prizes during this event. The student permission slip will be available March 24<sup>th</sup> in the High School office. A form must be completed and signed for each student as well as their guest and turned into the office no later than April 7<sup>th</sup>. Any late forms will not be guaranteed admittance.

Wellsville has a strong and proud tradition in our prom festivities. Since 1993 the Booster Club has provided an After Prom Party, this is a self-supported project sustained by our fund raising events as well as individual and business donations of money, gift certificates or other items. All donations will be used for the After Prom Party. If you see value in our efforts and would like to make a donation please make your check payable to Wellsville Booster Club. Your donation can be sent to: Wellsville High School Booster Club, c/o Kim Moore, 37 East 2200 Road, Wellsville, KS 66092. If you have any questions or need to coordinate your donation, please contact Miriam Barthol at 785-883-4065.

The after prom “workers” are all adult volunteers. If you are interested in giving your night hours on April 19<sup>th</sup> to keep our kids safe and help them have a fun, memorable night feel free to contact Miriam Barthol or the High School office. This is open to all adults regardless if they have students enrolled in Wellsville schools.

Every year hundreds of young adults, ages 15-19 are killed in alcohol or drug related accidents. Many of these occur during the prom and graduation season. Your donation to the After Prom Party would be greatly appreciated and will help us keep our children safe.

Thank you,

Wellsville High School Booster Club



## RED ROBIN KICKBACK NIGHT

WES PTO is sponsoring a "kick-back" night at the Olathe Red Robin restaurant on Thursday, March 6. All meals purchased between 4:00 - 9:00 p.m. will have 10% of the total "kicked back" to WES PTO. You must inform the host that you are there to support WES and ask that your check be credited to our PTO. Please inform all your friends and family about this opportunity to support the programs sponsored by our PTO. For more information, please contact WES office at 785-883-2996 x 3125.



## SUMMER BALL SIGN-UP DATES

Saturdays - March 1st & 8th, 9:00am - 12:00 noon; WJRC Office  
Wednesdays - February 27th, March 5th & 12th, 6:00 - 8:00 pm; WJRC Office



T-Ball - ages 4-6; Cost \$35 (Practices begin first of May; season runs from the middle of May through June)

Baseball/Softball - ages 7-8, 9-10, 11-12; Cost = \$50 ages 13,14 Cost \$70  
(Practices begin in April; season runs from the middle of May through July)

Curtis Wright  
Director WJRC (Wellsville Joint Recreation Commission)  
320 Pendleton  
785-883-4532

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