

"Where Success is
Measured One
Student at a Time"

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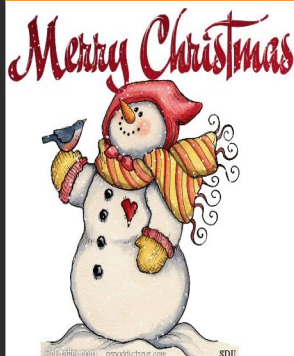
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Unified School District #377

Atchison County Community Schools



December 2016

Effingham, KS

Project Based Learning Grades K-3

By Wanda Small, P.B.L. Teacher

USD#377 is very fortunate to be on the forefront offering 136 students grades K-3 **Project Based Learning (P.B.L.)** classes this year. We are embracing something new - out of the box so to speak, to meet the needs of the 21st Century learners, starting at a young age. This is truly a unique and special opportunity that most schools do not have. P.B.L. promotes learning by doing from hands-on lessons that go beyond the textbook and focuses on skills for a lifetime.

There is a lot of **S.T.E.A.M.** (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) in P.B.L. and learners get to think like engineers, artists, scientists, and mathematicians while using the engineering design process. If something doesn't work, students are asked to problem solve, redesign, rebuild, and test it again. Students learn that failure is a part of learning while strengthening dialogue, inquiry, and critical thinking skills.

Several times a month, our young engineers design their own creations out of Tinker Toys, Legos, K-Nex, Gears, Popular Mechanics kits, and Marble Runs. These all tie into the **S.T.E.A.M.** projects! Our primary students are so lucky they even get to do **robotics!!!**

During the first 9 weeks students learned about the "**Power of Wind**" to create boats, pinwheels and balloon powered cars made from recycled materials. It looked like Santa's workshop as students were actively engaged in designing, building, and testing their creations. Competitive students raced their cars in the little gym and first grader, Payton Hoffman was the winner! Her balloon powered car went 25 feet 2 inches! Congratulations Payton! Stop by the school and see the winning cars in the show case.

P.B.L. students learned about prevention and how to be prepared to apply basic first aid in real world emergency situations through the **First Aid Project**. Each student made a basic first aid kit for their home. They explored deeper meanings of first aid by practicing how to help someone who has a cut, burn, or is choking. Partners took turns practicing what to do if they found someone unresponsive. ***It is very important that the students know their address and phone number in case they need to call 911.***



As part of the **HEALTH CARE STUDY**, PBL students studied the respiratory system, skeletal system, and muscular system. It's fun to watch kids learn the names and functions of tools found in a play doctor's kit. They got the opportunity to have imaginary play with dolls and teddy bears being their patients. They even worked with their peers when measuring circumference of heads and heights.

Currently, students are researching health care, designing a doctor's office, and making pamphlets to promote good health. Besides a doctor or nurse, students are learning about the lab technician, x-ray technician, and the receptionist. Kids use their fine motor skills to operate tweezers, medicine droppers, and pipettes. For a Bonus, students build

Continued to Page 4.....

December 2016



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 JHGBB @ Perry 4:30pm HSWR @ Silver Lake 5pm	2 Benedictine College Visit 8:30am HSBB @ A-High 4:30pm	3 District Honor Band KMEA Honor Choir JHWR Big 7 @ Riverside 9am JSH Activity Night 5-6pm
4	5 Senior Gov/Econ Field Trip 9am JHGBB (H) Holton 4:30pm Elem PTO 6:30pm	6 HSBB (H) NC 4:30pm	7 Senior Holiday Dinner 11am Dance Team Kids Clinic 5:30pm After Prom Mtg. 6pm	8 JV Scholars Bowl 3:30pm Dance Team Kids Clinic 5:30pm G2/3 Music Program @ JSH 7pm	9 G4 to Nutcracker HSWR @ Eudora 1:30pm HSBB (H) Sabetha 4:30pm Dance Team Kids Perform. After-Prom Dinner	10 HSWR @ Eudora 9am JV Scholars Bowl @ Hiaw. 9am
11	12 G6/7/8 Vocal Concert 7pm BOE Mtg. 6:30pm	13 HSBB @ JW 4:30pm	14 G5 to Washburn Planetarium/Observatory 10am Fine Arts to New Theater 11am	15 G6 to Washburn Planetarium/Observatory 10am G6-12 Band Concert 7pm	16 HSBB @ Hiaw. 4:30pm Soundmaster to At. Area Nursing Homes	17
18	19 SH Vocal Concert 7pm	20 End of 1st Semester AR Word Count JDLA Early Dismiss Elem. Class Parties HSBB @ Holton 4:30pm Elem Site Council 6:30pm	21 Teacher Workday Christmas Break-No Classes →	22	23	24
25 	26 Christmas Break-No Classes →	27	28	29	30	31

BOE News and Highlights

The USD 377 Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, November 14 at 6:30 at the Board of Education Office.

Presentations:

Presentations were presented by the Elementary Student Council, HS Science Club, Soundmaster Field Trip and National Character Education Conference.

Consent Items approved:

*Minutes from October 12, 2016.

*Activity Reports, Bills & Claims, Treasurer's Report.

*Gifts and Grants.

*Keystone Correspondence.

*Reports and Correspondences.

Action items:

*Resignations/Separations—

David Lee, Custodian; Cheri Hawk, Nurse; Nick Fuemmeler, Head Football Coach.

*Substitute Teacher—Dr. Robert Kiser.

*Supplemental Contracts—Rescind head baseball coach contract offer to Steve Wiseman.

*Substitute Aide/Para—Ashley Hobbs.

*Substitute Custodial pay Considerations—1. Substitute custodians current starting salary—\$8.00/hr. 2. Substitute custodians with experience current starting salary—\$8.50/hr.

*Substitute Custodial pay Recommendations—1. Randy Heineken, \$8.50/hr. 2. Rhonda Thorpe, \$8.50/hr. 3. Ashley Lott—\$8.50/hr.

*Part-time Custodian Recommendation—Peter Pickman, 2nd shift part-time at the elementary.

*Substitute Custodian Rate of Pay for 377 employees working overtime to cover for custodial shortage. Maximum rate of \$8.00 per hour before applying OT wage calculations.

Student Trips Approved:

*KMEA Honor Band Auditions.

*HS Yearbook class to sell ads.

*HS Soundmaster Christmas Tour.

*HS Soundmasters to Omaha, NE.

*6G trip to Spritz Planetarium and 5G trip to Jefferson Co. Conservation District.

Fundraisers Approved:

*Student Ambassadors—Boo Candy Grams.

*HS StuCo—Butter Braids.

The next board of education meeting will be held on December 12 in the Board Office at 6:30pm.



PARENTS AS TEACHERS

For most parents, helping their child build a healthy relationship with food becomes more challenging in the toddler years.

Parent Educators can help you set reasonable limits on mealtime behaviors. If you are pregnant or have a child under 3, call Lisa Smith at 913-370-3680 for more information about this free program.



Please go to
usd377.org for
monthly
Breakfast and
Lunch menus!

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The Atchison County Community Schools, USD #377, Effingham, Kansas, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities. Anyone having questions regarding compliance with Title VI, Title IX, Americans With Disability Act or Section 504 may contact: Steve Wiseman, Superintendent of Schools, 306 Main Street, P.O. Box 289, Effingham, KS 66023-0289 (Title VI, Title IX, ADA, and Section 504 Coordinator).

THE GIFT OF BOOKS

By Deanna Scherer



As the fall days come to an end, the cold winter days lie before us—we pass through the winter threshold celebrating with friends and family during the holiday season. Like some of you, I have spent some time thinking about the gift giving practice that we embrace during the winter holidays. I think it would be nice to give the gift of books this year. I am an avid reader and even though I often read career related literature, I do like to read blogs, magazines, and books for pleasure. I am sharing a blog that you might want to take a look at--

Three reasons to give someone a book this Christmas: <http://acuff.me/2015/12/3-reasons-to-give-someone-a-book-this-christmas/>

ACCJSH will have a gift for our students when we return in January and launch a Reading Program using some popular books purely for the enjoyment and immersion of students into reading. Our board of education approved the purchase of many books and movies to use during this program, where we hope to help our students discover (or re-discover) that love of books, reading, and literature that is so fundamental for future enjoyment and success.

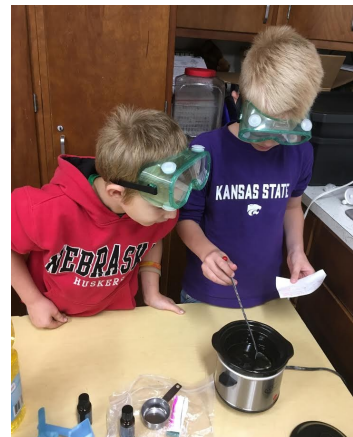
We have several members of our teaching staff who have researched leveled reading programs, however, we may create a history of our own as we try this program with secondary students. We have found that this is not a common practice in high schools yet, but we are willing to give it our all.

Enjoy this next month as you prepare for the holidays. Read a book, have your children read books, and give a book if you get a chance. Books are for now and for later; you can read it once or many times and it is still there waiting for you to learn and live from the experience.

Continued from front page.....

life-sized skeletal systems from all sizes of cardboard tubes and label them with the bone names. They also look at prepared slides under a kid-friendly microscope. The First Aid/Health Care Project might even spark some interest in health care careers several years from now! You never know!

Finally, the 2nd grade chemists have started making peppermint and lavender flavored **TOP RURAL SCHOOL LIP BALM** again. Lip balm is made from soybean oil, bees wax, and flavoring. This entrepreneur project started last year.



Students learn how a small business works. They also learn about the agriculture aspect of bees and soybeans. Thank you goes to Mrs. Jackson's 6th grade keyboarding class for making the lip balm labels! **Lip balm is sold for \$2.00 a tube.** Please stop by Mrs. Small's class to get yours. It is also sold at The Muscotah Mercantile, although it's a tad bit higher there. Nevertheless, they make great Christmas stocking stuffers and will keep your lips from chapping! The profit goes to the Elementary P.T.O. and is used for more "projects" to benefit our students!

P.B.L. is off to a great start and it's only going to get better! We are a Top Rural School! Special thanks goes to our school board, administration, teachers, staff, and Atchison County 4-H Extension agents and parents for their support. Keep your eyes and ears open as more P.B.L. projects get off the ground in the future including but not limited to *cooking classes / nutrition, junk drawer robotics, conservation, forestry, vermicomposting, and plant science.*





Senior Citizens Holiday Dinner

Superintendent's Fifteenth

Annual Invitation

December 7, 2016

A Special Holiday Tradition

It is my pleasure to extend this special invitation to senior citizens residing in the Atchison County Community School District to attend the fifteenth annual Senior Citizens Dinner. Last year 82 senior guests were welcomed with a warm meal (Holiday meal with all the fixing's), colorfully designed place-mats (provided by the elementary school students) and table decorations that were given away as door prizes. This is one celebration that no senior citizen can afford to miss (free to all senior citizens).

Please RSVP by Monday, November 28th

Senior guests are asked to mark Wednesday, **December 7, at 11:00 am** on their calendars. Let us know you plan to attend by calling the district office at (913) 833-5050 on or before November 28th to help our cooks and staff in their preparations. This special dinner will be held at ACCJSH School. A special sign-up sheet will be available at the "Town and Country" Senior Center in Effingham. (Alternate date will be December 9th)

Building Character & Community Pride

Atchison County Community School employees are working hard to keep our community of schools strong. Staff members work each and every day toward the goal of educating a new group of graduates who are able to serve as worthy stewards of our community trust. Our students need this community event to help them understand the importance of character and pride. Please come and share in this sincere demonstration of appreciation by our students, staff and administration for a lifetime of hard work and dedication that the USD 377 senior citizens contribute to our community to schools.

TIGER CONNECTION

Homework: Set the Stage

Homework is your child's job, but you play an important role, too. Here are everyday things you can do to set him/her up for success.

Show Interest

Before your youngster starts homework, ask her to tell you about his/her assignments. They can show you their textbooks or activities and explain what they are supposed to do. This shows the homework is important to you.

Create a schedule

Encourage your child to create a list of subjects they have for homework every day, and help them estimate how long each will take. Keep in mind that some kids prefer to do easier assignments first so they can quickly accomplish something, while others would rather start with harder work. Have your youngster decide which methods suits them best.

Offer Support

There are lots of ways to support your child while they work. Let them bounce ideas off of you for a project, or listen as they read an essay out loud. If they get stuck, ask questions to guide them rather than giving the answers. Or suggest strategies like looking at a previous textbook chapter, consulting their notes, or calling a friend. They will learn how to rely on themselves to find solutions.

Learning with Leaves

Fall leaves aren't just fun and colorful—they're ideal for practicing all sorts of skills. Help your youngster collect leaves from the ground, and enjoy these activities together. **Leaf Prints:** have your child dip each leaf into finger paint and firmly press it into a sheet of white paper. They will see the imprints of the veins—ask what they think the veins are for. (They deliver water to the leaves.) **Graph of leaves:** Encourage your youngster to sort their leaves into columns, lining them up evenly across each row. If they sorted by color, you could ask "How many more red leaves are there than yellow leaves?" **The story of my leaf:** Suggest that your child pick their favorite leaf and write a story with the leaf as the main character.

What's Happening in Second Grade?

It is hard to believe that the year is half way over. The students enjoyed going to The Coterie at Crown Center to watch a play of Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer and expressing themselves through artwork at Kaleidoscope. They did an excellent job representing ACCES.



The students are making great growth in their reading. We are continuing to further the students' love for reading by teaching the students many strategies to help with their decoding of words. The students have been working hard on narrative writing, as well as starting to learn how to write informational paragraphs by using their November Writing Journal. Students are still bringing home Kiwi Bags containing books that help them with their fluency.

In math, we just finished the chapter on 2-Digit Addition and are currently working on 2-Digit Subtraction. In centers, students are working in cooperative groups. Students are demonstrating activities that relate to the lessons being taught. Students are practicing Math Facts along with having activities that relate to past chapters to keep the information fresh in their minds.

We are noticing the enjoyment the kids get when they understand a new concept and we hope you are enjoying it too. Happy Holidays!!



3rd Grade Jurors for The Three Little Pigs Mock Trial!!

SNAPSHOTS OF ATCHISON COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



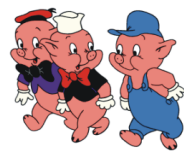
Thank you to our local Veterans!



**JH
Wrestling
Action!**



**3rd Grade Mock Trial
of the
Three Little Pigs.**



**Kindergarten
Program
Excitement!!**



FFA NEWS

On Friday, November 11th, FFA members presented a PALS lesson to the 1st and 2nd graders. The lesson covered Grain Bin Safety. Students learned the importance of staying safe during harvest and what can happen when a person enters a grain bin full of grain. A demonstration of how a grain bin works and safety tips were presented to the elementary students along with a question and answer session on grain bins and harvest.

Also, the FFA officer team competed on Wednesday, November 16th, at the Northeast District FFA Leadership school. Members participated in an FFA/Agricultural knowledge test and Chapter rituals competition. Students represented our chapter and school very well.



The next Board of Education Meeting is scheduled for December 12 @ 6:30 pm.



USD #377 is currently looking for individuals to fill substitute positions for Teacher, Food Service, Teacher Aide, Custodial and Bus Driver. If you would like more information or would like to apply for a substitute position, contact USD #377 Board of Education Office at (913) 833-5050 or drop by at 306 Main St., Effingham, KS. USD #377 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age.

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