

**Summer
2008**

The Bluebird Post *A USD 411 Newsletter*

A Quarterly Publication from the Superintendent's Office

Upcoming dates

- Aug. 4: Enrollment 6-9 pm
- Aug. 5: Enrollment 8-12 pm
- Aug. 11-13 Staff return for in-service/workdays
- Aug. 12 JH/HS Fall Sports Orientation 7 pm
- Aug. 14 First Day of School for students
- Aug. 19 Open House at Grade School 7 pm
- Aug. 21 PTO Shirt Sales begin
- Aug. 21 JH/SH Open House
- Aug. 29 BBQ and Fall Sports Preview 5:30 pm and Sports Pictures
- Aug. 30 Golf Tourney at Pine Edge

Inside this issue:

Capital Improvements	1
New staff members	2
Sports	3
District information	4

Summer Provides Opportunity for Facility Improvements

With students out of the buildings, three major projects are being completed: 1) Paving east drive at HS 2) Refinishing JH gym floor, and 3) Replacement of the JH gym bleachers.

Perhaps the most outwardly visible project has been the paving of the east driveway at the HS. Paving this drive will help eliminate dust and dirt on the east side of the HS. In addition, handicapped patrons will have true handicapped access to both the gym and the football field with the extension of the sidewalk all the way to the stadium.

In addition, the Junior High gym is seeing some significant improvements with sanding and refinishing of the gym floor. Originally built in 1970, this is the first time the floor has been completely sanded down and a finish applied to the floor after the lines were repainted.

Even though the floor is nearly 40 years old, the company responsible for the work remarked on it's outstanding condition given it's age, due greatly to the careful maintenance given by the custodial crew and coaches over the years.

The original bleachers in the junior high gym are being replaced with a closed set of bleachers that

include hand rails, handicap access and power retraction. These new bleachers will eliminate the hazard of people or things falling through the boards.

Across the district, other improvements at the elementary school include some carpet and new wiring to handle technology needs.



Cement being poured at the HS.



A worker rides a power sander.

New Staff Members Bring Skills and Talents to USD 411

This coming year, several new teachers join the staff at USD 411. These staff members bring with them a rich variety of skills and talents to their teaching position.



Susan Bedford- FACS

Taking over the Family and Consumer Science Department will be Susan Bedford. Mrs. Bedford most recently has worked as a school psychologist but is eager to return to the area of her original training and certification as a Home Economics teacher. Mrs. Bedford has been working for the Beloit Special Education Cooperative. In addition, she has worked as a special education teacher at the middle and high school level. Mrs. Bedford has two grown children, one who is a teacher and one still in college. She enjoys spending time with her family, sewing, reading and riding her motor scooter.

Claire Overstake will be the new JH Math and Science teacher, taking over for Bruce Stucky who retired. Previously, Claire taught fifth grade in Hillsboro. While at Hillsboro, Mrs. Overstake focused on teaching math and science to the middle school students. Prior to teaching in Hillsboro she taught in Easton, Stafford, Oswego, Ft. Lauderdale and Ft. Scott where she taught 6th grade. While at Ft. Scott she received several honors, including being a finalist in the Raytheon Math Hero Award Contest, and named to the National Honor Roll's Outstanding American Teacher and has coached track. Other distinctions include being the commanding officer for the Salvation Army, overseeing the services of the needy in Muscatine, Iowa. Mrs. Overstake and her husband, Grant have three grown children.



Claire Overstake- JH Math and Science

Joe Biggs is not new to the Goessel School system, having student taught with Brian Holloway, substituted at the Grade School and coached at the Junior High level. Having graduated from McPherson College in 2006, he has worked this past year as a case manager for Prairie View in McPherson. Mr. Biggs is eager to return to Goessel where he received his practical training. In particular, Mr. Biggs has additional training in technology that will assist him in the computer lab. During his student teaching tenure, he worked with all grade levels, and in particular with the upper grades teaching them to use power point, creating DVD's and being a resource to the classroom teachers. This next year, Mr. Biggs will be asst. HS volleyball coach and will also be the head coach for JH girls basketball.



Joe Biggs- GS Health, P.E. and Computers

Tonya Bartel enters the JH Language Arts position, already familiar with the Goessel community where she has been working with the Parents as Teacher program. Mrs. Bartel graduated from Bethel College in 2001. Since graduation, she was taught in the Blue Valley District as a fifth grade teacher and has also been the adjunct instructor at Bethel College, teaching Language Arts to Elementary Education majors. In addition, she has been the curriculum writer

New staff (continued)

for fifth grade Bible curriculum for the Mennonite Elementary Schools. Tonya Bartel also has a strong interest in theater, having performed in various stage Productions and directed theater at Hesston College. Mrs. Bartel's assignment at Goessel will be to teach Language Arts to grades 6-7-8 and will also coach Forensics.

Susan Saunders is another teacher familiar with the Goessel community. Currently residing in Lehigh, Mrs. Saunders has been working with Hospira in McPherson as a chemist. This coming year she will teach HS Math. A graduate of Friends University, Mrs. Saunders has taught at Larned and Eureka where she also coached junior high basketball. Mrs. Saunders is an avid outdoorswoman. Her hobbies include training horses and bird dogs. In addition, she is a certified shotgun instructor. Mrs. Saunders looks forward to re-entering the teaching field this coming fall here at Goessel.

We look forward to having these new teachers on staff and welcome them to our school and community.



Tonya Bartel- JH Language Arts



Susan Saunders- HS Math

Fall Sports Preview

Throughout the summer, nearly thirty young men and women have been coming into the weight room four mornings each week to prepare themselves for the fall sports season. Coaches Justin Coup, Curtis Guhr, Crysta Guhr and Ryan Hoopes have provided supervision and guidance.

The football team looks to build on the success they had last year with five seniors providing leadership this season: Austin Unruh, Travis Fensky, Kendall Voth, Craig Banman and Nathan Walker. The football team, coached by Justin Coup opens their season with a road trip to Centre on Friday, Sept. 5.

The volleyball team, coached by Crysta Guhr returns three seniors this coming season: Amy Brubaker, Rinda Duerksen, and Kristin Unruh.

They will have a strong supporting cast from the junior class including some sophomores. The volleyball team faces their first competition with a Quad on Tuesday, Sept. 2.

The cross country team has several guys and gals returning for the 2008 season. Running again for the girls will be Kristen Hoffman, Sara Boman, Lindsey Wedel, Shanna Klassen and Raney Schroeder. The returning boys will be represented by Chad Wedel, Derek Kruger, Laird Goertzen, Isaac Fast, Jared Reimer and senior Anthony Esau. Their first competition takes them to Clearwater on Thursday, Sept. 4.

We wish all the athletes and their coaches a successful season!



*A Quarterly Publication from the
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Dr. John Fast, Superintendent
P.O. Box 68
Goessel, KS
67053

Phone: 620-367-4601
Fax: 620-367-4603
Email: john.fast@usd411.org

Enrollment Information:

- *Enrollment will be held in the cafeterias at each building. Times will be from 6-9 on Monday Aug. 4 and from 9-12 on Aug. 5. If you are unable to make it at the regular enrollment time, please call your school office for an appointment.*
- *Lunches: Elementary students are \$1.50, JH/HS students are \$1.70 and visitors are \$2.50.*
- *Application for Free/Reduced lunch meals are available at time of enrollment.*

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Goessel USD 411
P. O. Box 68
Goessel, KS 67053

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