



The Bluebird

A Publication for the Alumni of Goessel High School

Volume 3 Number 1

Winter—2015



New Academic Wing Nears Completion

The anticipation of students at Goessel High School continues to build as classrooms near completion. Interior construction is nearly completed in the family and consumer science classrooms. Four modular kitchens are in place with plenty of additional space for sewing machines, as well as a large classroom area.



Students enrolled in physical science classes will also have a large work area equipped with multiple sinks and plenty of storage for necessary equipment.



The agriculture classroom is complete with a Gorbelt, 2 ton capacity hoist, that runs the length of the shop. Also, this area includes a self contained paint booth.



A mezzanine on the east side of the classroom is available for storage. There is also a designated area outside for additional storage for large pieces of steel, etc.



Visitors entering the building will be greeted by a new facade and a keyless entry system. The main office has been moved to the front of the building and all visitors will be buzzed in by Debbie Schrag, school secretary. This will allow for additional security upon entering the building.



A new entry way has also been constructed on the west side of the new addition. Eventually, the old agriculture building will be demolished and replaced with a parking lot.

This project is a wonderful example of individuals who continue to value education and support the community.



Contact Information

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Alumni Association

P.O. Box 68

Goessel, KS. 67053

Visit us on facebook:

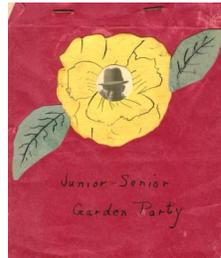
[goessel alumni](#)

The alumni newsletter is also posted on the alumni page of the USD 411 webpage.

Memorabilia



As construction begins to near completion, the reality of an alumni office is closer. There is a significant amount of memorabilia and artifacts that have already been donated or accumulated. A big thanks to all of you who have contributed in one way or another. I am interested in all sorts of paperwork, whether that be class histories, banquet and prom programs, newspaper clippings, graduation announcements, etc.



1932 Junior/Senior Banquet Invite

As you clean and sort through possessions feel free to contact me to determine

whether an article you have might be of historic value. It would be of interest to collect a graduation announcement from each year. If you

are ready to part with one, let me know. There will be some cost involved when setting up the alumni office. Shelving and appropriate archival storage containers will need to be purchased in order to preserve the artifacts.

An account has been established and donations can be made to the Goessel Alumni Association, P.O. Box 68, Goessel Kansas.

This summer the class of 1949 celebrated their 65th and last reunion. Seventeen of the original thirty-eight classmates attended.

Keeping In Touch

The alumni committee composed of Judy Unruh, Dan Bergen, Ilona Abrahams, Diana Schmidt, James Wiens and Pat Flaming met for their first meeting in October, 2014. After some discussion the committee agreed on a weekend in mid-September, early October as a date for an alumni reunion.

The exact date will be set as soon as the 2016 athletic schedule is confirmed later in 2015. More information about the reunion will be available in the summer newsletter.

The alumni database has continued to grow and we appreciate the increase of email addresses. We encour-

age individuals to update their information when needed.

Even though many of you follow us on Facebook, this database can be a helpful tool when planning a class reunion. We look forward to receiving more contact information from the classes who have graduated after 2003.

BE WISE



The Goessel Community Foundation held a two person scramble benefit at Pine Edge Golf Course on September 20, 2014, to raise money to grow the impact fund. The interest from this fund is used to help fund non-profit organizations and our school system. It is so refreshing that most of the golfers and sponsors outside our community are willing to contribute to the Goessel community. The tourna-

ment was a success and \$1,525.00 was raised. Citizen State Bank of Goessel sponsored the meal. This is an excellent start to the BE WISE LEAVE A LEGACY CAMPAIGN.

This is your community. What is your vision and passion for the Goessel Community? If we all pull together we will be as wise as the owl on the sign in front of the Goessel bank. Let's be wise so that we can reach the goal

of \$117,000.00 by the year 2017. A strong community is only possible if each one of us is willing to leave a legacy with a vision, then it will be everlasting for our children and grandchildren for many years to come. Think about leaving at least 5% of your wealth in the community.

BE WISE LEAVE FIVE!
—submitted by Myron Schmidt, Community Foundation Member.

Music at Goessel

Music has always been an integral part of Goessel High School, as well as the Goessel Community. The 1929 year-book states, "Music is often referred to as one of the main uplifting forces in human society. No school curriculum would be complete without music."

As early as 1926, students could enroll in Boys' Glee Club, Girls' Glee Club, and Mixed Glee Club. Students could also try out for a Girls' Quartet, Mixed Quartet, and a Boys' Quartet. A band was not present at this time.

Records show that Goessel took home the honors of first place in the North Marion County Music Contest in 1928. Prof. H. F. Janzen was the director of all three choirs. Dress code dictated that all girls wear matching outfits and the boys wear suits and bowties.

Goessel High School has continued to offer a variety of vocal opportunities. With superb leadership that expect quality performances, Goessel has continued to bring home an assortment of medals and trophies in the vocal field.

Although, students may have had opportunities to use instruments in special groups, it wasn't until the 1937-1938 school year that a band was organized. An article in the school newspaper, dated September 28, 1934, mentions that John Ratzlaff accompanied a group with a vibraphone. A vibraphone is a percussion instrument with a double row of tuned metal

bars, similar to a xylophone.

The Goessel Bluebird Messenger, dated September 24, 1937, indicates that Miss Martha Penner had devoted a great deal of time to find instruments that would make a well proportioned band. Some instruments were secured from surrounding towns and 33 students brought their own instruments. Eventually, 39 students were enrolled in band. The band included all basic instruments used today plus three mellophones. A mellophone is a brass instrument used mainly in marching bands.

In 1940, Herb Franz was hired as the band instructor. A marching band was established and uniforms were bought from Fruhauf Southwest Uniform Company, in Wichita. Each member was expected to pay \$1.50 per year to rent a uniform. The cost of the uniforms was also financed by performances at basketball games, Marion County teachers' meetings, political rallies and cake walks.

During this time, a Gretsch field drum was added as well as a new twirling baton. One of the first events that Goessel's marching band participated in was the Newton Santa Claus Parade in December of 1941.

A proposal for new uniforms was made in 1952. It was suggested that since the bands' public appearances reflected on both the school and the community, new uniforms should be pur-

chased. Patrons were given the opportunity to make a contribution at the Spring Music Program.

The band, dressed in full marching uniforms, usually performed at home basketball games. It wasn't until 1953 that two pep bands were formed and took turns playing at basketball games.



Goessel's First Band, 1940-1941.

In 1983, Herb Franz, who had served for 14 years as Goessel's band director, was inspired by the band's outstanding achievements. He then called upon Brian Stucky, who had done extensive research on Captain Goessel, for more information. After consulting with Jerry Toews, he proceeded to adapt the Elbiata March, originally a piece for the piano, for the Goessel Band. This piece was later dedicated to Captain Kurt Von Goessel of the North German Lloyd Steamship "Elbe".

Receiving a lot of publicity, the band, now under Jerry Toew's direction, was filmed by KAKE television. The story was eventually picked up by The Wichita Eagle, The Hutchinson News, and the Kansas City Times. Subsequently, a recording was made, selling over 200 copies.

With experienced instructors, dedicated students, and strong community support, the music department at Goessel High School continues to excel.

"Every pep band night was like a mini concert"

1997 alumni

"One of the main reasons I finished school! I didn't go to band....it was life."

Goessel alumni

"We may have complained about practicing but we always were the best sounding band around."

1978 alumni

A Publication from the
Alumni Association

Ilona Abrahams, Editor

1982-1983 band, under the direction of Jerry Toews.



BAND: Steve Voth, Bradford Goertzen, Chris Nikkel, Lynell Hiebert, Alan Mike Voth, Larry Logback, David Girard, Van Schmidt, Arlin Richert, Janna Girard, Carolyn Klassen, Denise Duerksen, J'Nan Hiebert, Dee Ann Byrd, Razor, Mike Hatchett, Laura Eyrd, Debbie McMillen, Kris Flaming, Betsy Toews NOT PICTURED: Denise Hackney, James Krehbiel



Stoetzl, Bradley Schmidt, Nelson Voth, Connie Voth, Jenny Schroeder, Randy Schroeder, Mike Hieber Brandt, Mark Goertzen, Kim Schmidt, Laura Duerksen, Brenda Reimer, Karen Hull, Debbie Fienert, Dons Steph Voth, Mar Jean Hiebert, DeVon Schmidt, Diana McMillen, Brenda Wedel, Susan Schmidt, Milis Stoetzl, Laura Logback, Michelle Schrag, Naomi Goertz, Kay Goertzen, Amy Schroeder, Director Jer

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