

**August
2018**

The Bluebird Post *A USD 411 Newsletter*

A Quarterly Publication from the Superintendent's Office

Upcoming dates

- Aug. 1 Enrollment
6:00 pm
- Aug. 2 Enrollment
8:00 am
- Aug. 6-10 Fifth grade
Band Boot Camp
- Aug. 13-15 Teacher In-
-service Days
- Aug. 16 First Day of
School
- Aug. 21 Elementary
School Open House
- Aug. 24 Fall Sports
Preview
- Aug. 28 HS VB at Ell-
Saline
- Aug. 30 JH VB & FB
at Moundridge
- Aug. 31 HS FB at
Moundridge

Gardening Program Receives Kansans Can! Award

The Kansas State Department of Nutrition and Wellness has awarded a Kansans Can! Award to Goessel Elementary and Pam Abrahams for their gardening work and specifically for their Carton 2 Garden Project. Gardening coordinator and teacher, Pam Abrahams, assisted by Krista Graber worked with students K-5 participated in the Carton 2 Garden project in creating a Sensory Garden using milk cartons and other recycled objects. Students researched different types of seeds and planted them in cartons. Some of these plants were later moved to the school garden. With the assistance of some FFA students and Ms Oard, they also produced a video which can be viewed on our website. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=48yjmUm0Ss>

For their efforts, Mrs. Abrahams and Mrs. Graber will be honored at the August State Board of Education meeting in Topeka. Randy Watson, Commissioner of Education will be presenting the award to Mrs. Abrahams and Mrs. Graber and they will be accepting the award on behalf of all of the students and staff at Goessel Elementary for their mutual support.



*Krista Graber and
Pam Abrahams*

New Staff: Braden Unruh

New to the faculty at Goessel this fall will be Braden Unruh who will become the 4-12, Vocal Music Instructor. Mr. Unruh graduated from Goessel High School in 2012. He went on to major in music from Bethel College and completed his teaching degree in 2016. Most recently he has been teaching at Haven High School. In addition to music, Mr. Unruh will also be the Scholar's Bowl coach and Musical Director. Outside of teaching, he enjoys making music with his family and with his folk band. Mr. Unruh's wife, Jill is also a teacher employed at Hillsboro.



*Braden Unruh, Vocal
Music Teacher, 4-12*

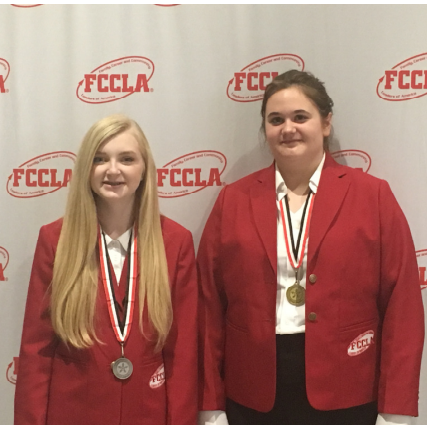
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All Staff Receive ALICE Training

In an effort to make sure we can provide as safe and secure learning environment as possible, all USD 411 teachers and staff will be participating in ALICE training on Tuesday Aug. 14. ALICE stands for Alert-Lockdown-Inform-Counter-Evacuate. ALICE is a national program providing a structure and framework for schools to ensure as safe and secure learning environment as possible for students and staff. The training will be provided by Marion County Sheriff Robert Craft and his officers. Sheriff Craft is a certified ALICE trainer. In addition to Goessel, he will be training other schools across Marion County using the ALICE technique. ALICE is endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The ALICE training will become a part of Goessel USD 411's Emergency Operating Procedure or EOP in their Crisis Plan. The training involves taking active steps and walking through various scenarios ranging from simply to alerting to taking counter measures and including evacuation. Sheriff Craft presented the program to the Board of Education last spring and the board adopted the program for use in the Crisis Plan. For more information on ALICE, go to: <https://www.alicetraining.com/our-program/alice-training/k12-education/>

Students and Instructor Attend National FCCLA Convention



Brooke Nafziger and Rachel Lyons attended FCCLA, NLC.

At the end of June, Rachel Lyons and Brooke Nafziger had the opportunity to represent GHS and the state of Kansas at FCCLA National Leadership Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Both girls qualified for national competition at the state meeting in April, and they did a fantastic job in their events at NLC. Rachel received a gold medal and placed 9th in the nation for her Job Interview event, and Brooke received a silver medal and placed 21st for her Recycle and Redesign project, "Project Pillowcase: A Case for a Dress."

Besides competitions, the girls, along with their moms and Mrs. Hiebert, instructor, they had the chance to listen to speakers and attend workshops, see other students' creativity in their projects, and learn what other FCCLA members do at their schools around the country. There was also time for some sightseeing, and they were able to visit some of Atlanta's historical and cultural landmarks, including Civil War monuments, influential places during the civil rights movement, and Centennial Olympic Park, center of the 1996 Summer Olympic Games. It was a wonderful week full of learning, exploring, and gaining leadership experience!

Additional Truck Traffic on K-15 at Start of School

As reported in the Hillsboro Star Journal, truck traffic on Hwy 50 will be rerouted while they make repairs to a bridge near Newton. All trucks will be routed onto US 56 and then south on K-15 past Goessel, to Newton. This will come right as we start school and last about 35 days. Parents, if you have a teenage driver, please take time to talk to them and coach them on good defensive driving techniques. If they have the option of avoiding K-15, that might be an option worth considering. Our Marion County Sheriff's Dept. will be increasing their presence during this time.

Sports Page

Football

The Bluebird football team has worked hard over the summer and is excited for the start of practice. Early season team goals include continuing to develop quality leaders and creating an atmosphere where each player is invested in the success of each of their teammates just as much as they are invested in their own success. The Bluebirds will be led by seniors Zach Zogleman, Justice Johnson, and Chris Strecker. Many underclassmen also gained positive Friday night experience last year so they will be counted on to step into new roles this season. The team will open the season on August 31 at Moundridge. This year's district opponents include Solomon, Herington, Canton-Galva, Peabody-Burns, and Bennington. The Bluebird football team is looking forward to seeing everyone out in support of all of our fall sports teams.

Volleyball

The Lady Bluebirds will look somewhat new this season, despite returning 5 senior letterwinners - Savannah Wuest, Audessi Unruh, Madison Smith, Cierra Nolte, and Stephany Meyer. After playing smaller roles in past years, this year's seniors look to take on new and bigger roles on the court and in leadership. Other seniors include Rebecca Sawyer and Shaylynn Spurlin. Growth in younger, inexperienced players is key for the Bluebirds to excel this season. Goessel will look to fight for another Wheat State League Championship. Formidable opponents in the league include Rural Vista, Little River, and Herington. Non-league competition will be tough with key opponents including Douglass, Halstead, Sedgwick, Olpe, and Inman.

Goessel XC

The 2018 Bluebird cross country team will be lead by seniors Nathan Impson and Edel Miller. This is the fourth year to participate for both of these runners and their experience and leadership will be a strength to the team this year. The team has been participating in weekly runs throughout the summer and are ready to work hard and play hard throughout the season this fall. We encourage you to ask a runner about their favorite part of being on the team and invite you to attend one of our meets. Our first meet will be at Pretty Prairie on Thursday, August 30.

Accreditation

The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) has implemented a new process for the accreditation of schools, called Kansas Educational Systems Accreditation, or KESA. USD 411 staff has been working the past two years to begin the process which officially started with the 2017-2018 school year. We started by conducting building and district needs assessments based on rubrics provided by KSDE and received feedback from staff, site councils, and the BOE. We then selected goal areas to focus on during the 5 year accreditation cycle. The goal areas we chose to focus on are Relevance and Relationships. Each building continues working to set specific goals and action plans within each area. Some of the main focuses of this work are increasing family engagement at each building and updating curriculum to ensure it is relevant and engaging. We also meet each year with a team of outside educators that review our progress and offer guidance and feedback.



A Quarterly Publication from the Superintendent's Office

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
USD411.ORG

Grade School Open House

The Preschool will hold it's Open House at 6:00 on Wednesday, Aug. 15. On Tuesday, Aug. 21, the Grade School will host it's Open House. It will begin at 6:00 with the Kindergarten. Parents will have the opportunity to meet their child's teacher and hear about the curriculum and expectations. Refreshments will be served in the cafeteria.

Wednesday, Aug. 15

- 6:00 Kinderhaus Preschool

Tuesday, Aug. 21

- 6:00 Kindergarten
- 6:45 First Grade
- 7:00 Second Grade
- 7:15 Third Grade
- 7:30 Fourth Grade
- 7:45 Fifth Grade

GOESSEL, KS 67053
CURRENT RESIDENT
POSTAL PATRON OR

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
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