

**Fall  
2017**

# *The Bluebird Post* *A USD 411 Newsletter*

*A Quarterly Publication from the Superintendent's Office*

## **Upcoming dates**

- Aug. 14 Staff return
- Aug. 17 First day of school with students
- Aug. 22 Open House at the Grade School
- Aug. 25 Fall Sports Preview
- Aug. 29 First HS VB match at Haven
- Aug. 31 First JH FB and VB at Wakefield
- Aug. 31 First CC meet at Pretty Prairie
- Sept. 1 First HS Football game at Wakefield
- Sept. 1 PTO Trash Bag sales begin
- Sept. 4 Labor Day, No School

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## **Goessel USD 411 Welcomes New Faces to the School Community**

This past July, Mr. Bryant Miller joined our school board. He was appointed by the board to fill the seat previously occupied by his father, Dan Miller. Dan Miller passed away this spring from a heart condition. Bryant and his wife, Chrystiana, live on the family farm east of Goessel. Bryant graduated from Goessel High School in 2010 and went on to Kansas State University to complete his master's degree in Family Studies and Child Therapy. He is employed by Prairie View in Newton as a therapist. He enjoys working on their farm and is committed to supporting the Goessel community and school system.



Ms. Alicia Oard will take over the reins of the Agricultural Education and FFA Club this fall. Ms. Oard grew up in the Abilene area, having lived on a farm and worked with her father raising many different animals. She went on to Kansas State University where she completed her degree in Agricultural Education. She graduated in 2015 and was hired at Herington High School. After hearing Ms. Manche was moving, she applied for the Goessel position. She looks forward to bringing her skills to the Agricultural Education program and is enthusiastic about promoting Ag. Ed. with students. She will also help sponsor cheerleading and is continuing her education by working toward her Master's degree.



## New Staff (continued from the front page)

Mr. Daven (Tony) Girard joined the staff in August, beginning his duties at the JH/HS building as custodian. He will primarily be working the afternoon hours and will also be covering many activities in the evening. Tony and his wife, Jenny, have one young son in the elementary school. Tony says he looks forward to working around young people and being part of the school system. He is passionate about giving back to the community and church to which he belongs.



Mrs. Susie Shipp will begin as a cook in the JH/HS kitchen helping to prepare the high quality meals our staff and students have come to appreciate. She follows Mrs. Barb Banman who retired. Susie has worked in a variety of capacities for the school, substituting as a school secretary, paraprofessional and cook. Now she will join the staff as a regular daily employee. She will continue to offer after school child care out of the elementary school. Susie has one daughter still in school and has also served on the Goessel Elementary PTO and the JH/HS Booster Club.



Other new staff who are joining us through MCSEC are Tabitha Sawyer as a para assistancing with visual impairment, Cindy Sattler who will be a para at the HS, and Kelly Fay who will be an interpreter. We also have two new assistant coaches joining us. Kyle Huxman will be the asst. HS football coach and Brooke Holloway will be the asst. HS girls basketball coach.

## Goessel Begins the Accreditation Process

The state of Kansas has embarked on a new process of accreditation for schools across the state. Called Kansas Education Systems Accreditation, or KESA, Goessel officially enters the 5 year process this fall. This new process involves less emphasis on testing and more emphasis building community relationships, developing rigorous curriculum, engaging students in relevant learning, developing pathways of learning interest for each student, and much more. This past year our staff have been studying what will be required over the next five year cycle of the accreditation process. While testing will still be a portion of the accreditation process, schools are being asked to focus on other important components of what makes a quality education. There are five defined areas that schools can focus on 1) Relationships 2) Relevance 3) Responsiveness 4) Rigor and 5) Results. While we work on all five to some degree, the three areas our staff have decided to primarily focus on will be 1) Relationships: developing a state of interconnectedness among people, curriculum, programs, projects and the community, 2) Relevance: strengthening the learners motivation and allowing learning to become more engaging, empowering and connected to real world applications, and 3) Results: witnessing growth and learning through a variety of measures that connect the learner to real world expectations. This process will be monitored by an outside visitation team, the district-wide Site Council, and the Board of Education.

# 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 will be to continue developing quality leaders and focusing on continual improvement each day at practice. The Bluebirds will be led by seniors Jayce Schmidt, Carson Sterk, Jordan Griffin, and Nathaniel Schmucker. It will also be important for other team members to step into new roles to help the team succeed. The team will open the season at Wakefield on September 1. District opponents this year are Little River, Ellinwood, St. John, Canton-Galva, and Central Plains. The Bluebird football team is looking forward to seeing everyone out in support of all of our fall sports teams. (contributed by Mr. Garrett Hiebert, Head Coach)

## Volleyball

The Lady Bluebirds will look familiar this season with the loss of only one player from their 3rd place team finish in 1A Division 1. Joining the ranks as coaches this year are Paige Booton, a former Lady Bluebird, and Patrick Loganbill, who will serve as head JH coach and also assist at the HS level. The 2017 Senior class has compiled an outstanding overall record of 129-3 during their careers thus far and hope to push the win column to 40+ again this season. This year's team will be focused to earn another Wheat State League Championship and look forward to non-league competition and tournament play to prepare them for another post-season run. All players have worked hard this summer in the weight room and are ready to start another great season. The motto for this 2017 season is Row the Boat. The boat symbolizes what holds our team together. The oars represent the energy needed to move forward and excel. The compass correlates with the direction our team wants to go and the goals we want to strive for. Row the Boat is a theme that includes our Bluebird Nation. Our team would love to see more fans in the boat with us, giving us great energy as we pursue our goals. The Goessel Invitational Tournament will be Saturday, September 9th, beginning at 8:30 a.m. It is a long day of great volleyball and a great opportunity to show the Lady Bluebirds your support. (contributed by Mrs Crysta Guhr, Head Coach)

## Cross Country

The Goessel boy's team will be young as there are no seniors on the team. We will rely on the leadership of the lone junior Nate Impson as he is the only boy with state experience on the team. Returning sophomores are Brody Schroeder and Zack Guerrero. Both of these boys improved significantly throughout their first year of cross country and we are hoping for continued improvement throughout the year. First year runners will be sophomore Jerah Schmidt and freshman Dawson Duerksen, David Sawyer, Brendon Hicks and Noah Regier. This will be the largest boy's team Goessel has had in awhile and we hope to improve on our league finish and qualify as a team for the state meet.

The girls team is returning four of their top seven and two of their top five runners from their state championship team last season. Seniors Julia Nightengale and Maddy Meier will lace it up in an attempt to qualify for state all four years of high school. Junior Edel Miller is one of the most consistent runners on the team and sophomores Elyse Boden and Porcelain Unruh round out the returners from the state team. Sophomore Katelyn Olson had a couple of really good races as a freshman and the team success will rely on consistency from all the runners. Freshman Cassandra Rust and Neviah Impson will round out the girls team. We hope to successfully defend our league title and earn a fifth straight trip to the state meet. (contributed by Mr. Brian Lightner, Head Coach)

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## Super Heroes!/Super Powers!

Our theme this coming year at the grade school is Super Heroes!/Super Powers! All of our students coming to Goessel Elementary are Super Heroes who are coming to learn their super powers. We define super powers as learning to read books with ease, how to calculate gigantic math problems in a flash, how to write, and express themselves through music and art, able to run, jump, play and work well with their classmates. All of these super powers and more that we teach our students are taught by our teachers who themselves are accomplished superheros! We hope your child enjoys the Super Hero theme and that they begin to look upon themselves as Superheroes in their own right by all the skills and abilities they master this coming year!

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