



The Bluebird

A Publication for the Alumni of Goessel High School

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Summer—2014



Construction Begins

The streets of Goessel echoed with the rumbling of tires as concrete trucks began to make their way into town. Over the course of a morning 13,130 square feet of concrete was poured and the floor plan of the new academic wing began to take shape.



Three departments will be placed in the new west annex — agriculture, physical science and family and consumer science. This arrangement will allow classrooms to share materials. All three classrooms will be equipped with multiple sinks and electrical outlets. This design creates a savings on plumbing and utilities. All three classrooms will have updated equipment and technology, plus more storage space.

Steel structures were put into place and cement block walls with brick siding are being added to match the existing gymnasium next to the new wing.

In addition the art room was revamped into a weight room. The art room has been



moved to the old science room. Other renovations include changes in the old home economics room and a reconfiguration

of the entryway will allow for additional security upon entering the building.

Other improvements include, replacing broken brick on the high school, and placing energy efficient windows on the oldest part of the school. A storm shelter is being added to the west side of the elementary school. Renovations in the boys restroom and the entry way on the east side of the elementary school are also taking place.

The original Goessel High School opened its doors in 1926 with an enrollment of 74 students. As enrollment increased the need for a new building became apparent and in the fall of 1935 students were able to enjoy the benefits of a new facility. By 1969 enrollment had reached 154 and an addition to the existing building was in process. By the late 1990's the facilities were reassessed. With the passing of a bond issue the original gym was renovated into an auditorium, more classrooms and a gym were added throughout the 1997-1998 school year. Enrollment for the year was 122 students.

Goessel has seen its enrollment fluctuate throughout the years. Although, for the past four years the Goessel School District has seen a slow but steady increase in enrollment.

This type of progress can only happen when individuals care about and support the community they live in. Dr. John Fast, superintendent of schools said, "We're thankful to see this is a growing district and we want to be able to meet our students educational needs well into the years to come."

Contact Information

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Alumni Association

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Visit us on facebook:

[goessel alumni](https://www.facebook.com/goesselalumni)

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

Teacher Highlights



W. O. Schmidt, endearingly known to most students as “Prof” Schmidt began his career at Goessel High School as a principal and teacher in 1940.

He received his first degree from Bethel College in 1928. In 1933 he received his B.S. from Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg. He continued his education and graduated with an M.S. from Kansas State Teachers College, Pittsburg in 1937. His first job assignment was at the Harvey County Grade School from 1928-1931. From 1932-1940, he served at the Udall Schools, first as principal and then as superintendent.

The Board of Education had heard about Mr. Schmidt and how he had developed a reputation for being a positive disciplinary principal. They decided to contact him. After visiting him in Udall they offered him the job of principal. He quickly found out he would need to wear many different hats at Goessel. Even though he had

been hired as the principal, he also was asked to teach a variety of subjects. Throughout his tenure he taught history, industrial arts which included mechanical drawing and woodworking, math, and German. Schedules show that he spent a half an hour in the morning and another half an hour at the end of the day, doing office work.

1966 marked the end of an era in Kansas education. The era of the Rural High School in Kansas ended. From then on Goessel Rural High School would be known as Goessel USD 411. With this change the Goessel Grade School and Goessel High School boards combined and Mr. Schmidt was asked to serve as superintendent of USD 411 and principal of the high school.

Whether he was wearing a teacher, principal, or superintendent hat, he was known as someone who cared deeply about the students under his supervision.

Pranks were common and he

dealt with them in a fair and positive manner. His daughters, Janet Schab and Bonnie Miller remember his theory for disciplining kids as “kids will be kids”. They recalled that he truly cared about his students. When Goessel students enrolled for college he made sure the college knew they came from Goessel, rather than just from one of the surrounding counties.

His wife, Esther, eventually joined the staff at the high school as the librarian and filled an assortment of other teaching positions as needed.

He was devoted to his colleagues, staff, students, friends and family. With his uncomplaining sense of duty he embraced his vocation with meaning and purpose.

In 1970 Prof. Schmidt retired. He was an integral part of the academic program at Goessel for thirty years. During his tenure he influenced the lives of hundreds of students and individuals in the Goessel community.



Accepting for the Goessel Library is Galen Miller.

Goessel Community Foundation Announces Grants

The Goessel Community Foundation announced the foundation’s grant awards for the year 2014 at the Goessel High School basketball games on Friday, March 21. The Goessel Community Foundation was established in 2011 with a mission to improve the quality of life for people living in and around Goessel by providing

financial support to non profit organizations that make a positive and meaningful impact in the community.

This year grants were given to Bethesda Home for their Friendship Meal Program. Kinderhouse Preschool received a grant for tuition scholarships for low income families. Grants were also

given to the Goessel Public Library to purchase a screen and a projector for use in the community room and the Goessel Grade School garden project.

The Goessel Community Foundation is affiliated with the Central Kansas Community Foundation located in Newton Kansas.

Keeping in Touch

Keeping the alumni address list current is a monumental task. Your help is needed. If you know of classmates, relatives, or alumni who haven't received this newsletter, please let us know their addresses. Contact addresses are listed on page one. This way we can include them in future mailings.

Currently, this newsletter is being sent to approximately 1,370 alumni. Approximately 500 alumni receive this letter through the postal service. Acquiring more email addresses would cut down on cost. For most of you who are receiving this newsletter through the postal service it has been a year since your last contribution. If you wish to continue receiving it in this manner, it is time to make another contribution to cover the cost of mailing.

A form has been included that can be filled out and returned. Your email address can be added by emailing the address on the first page. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep Goessel alumni informed, notify classes of various events of interest surrounding Goessel High School and receive information about the upcoming 2016 Alumni Homecoming event.

A copy of this newsletter is also posted on the USD 411 website under alumni. A Goessel alumni Facebook page has also been created. We encourage you to friend this page.

If your class is having a class reunion, let me know and I will post it on the Goessel alumni Facebook page and USD 411 website.

An alumni committee has been established and is starting to plan for the Alumni Homecoming event in October of 2016. The committee is Judy Unruh '57, Dan Bergen '61, Ilona Abrahams '72, Diana Schmidt '76, James Wiens '88, and Pat Flaming '96. An exact date will be set as soon as the 2016 football schedule is completed.

We look forward to a weekend full of events. If you have stories, antidotes, pranks, memorabilia, or pictures that you would like to share please do so using the addresses listed on the front page. This will give the committee an opportunity to consider how they might be used throughout the weekend.



Prank:

In 2011 some creative students decided to make use of some extra brick and concrete blocks and partially closed off the hallway.

Goessel High School Alumni

As a Goessel High School Alumni I would like to continue to receive this newsletter through the postal service. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep Goessel High School graduates informed. I understand my contribution will be used to pay for the cost of correspondence, including an alumni newsletter and announcements pertaining to the Goessel High School Alumni Reunion in 2016. Suggested contribution is \$5 per year.

Name (s) _____ Class (es) of _____

Address _____

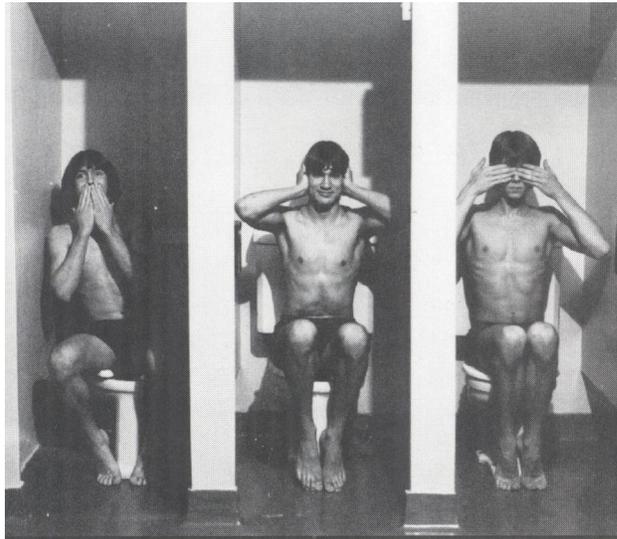
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Clip and mail to:

GHS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 68, Goessel KS. 67053

A Publication from the
Alumni Association

Iлона Abrahams, Editor



Members of the class of 1977, displays their unique brand of bathroom humor in the original bathroom of GHS.



Members of the class of 1999, recycle the old joke in the new bathroom of GHS.

Do you know? New lockers were installed at the high school several years ago. While cleaning, a copy of an old newsletter was found. It is entitled the "Goessel Gizzard". The date is March 1970. There are no names on the publication. It does list an address as The Resident, 1131 Houston, Manhattan, KS. If someone has more information about this newsletter and is willing to share, let me know.

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