



The Bluebird

A Publication for the Alumni of Goessel High School

Volume 7 Number 2

Summer - 2019



ALUMNI PARTNERSHIP DAY

As education continues to change, the Goessel school system is discussing and developing programs that will continue to provide educational opportunities for all students. The subject matter and requirements for graduation have also been altered as the dynamics of education have changed.

Educators recognize that the alumni of Goessel possess an amazing amount of knowledge which can be shared with the students enrolled at USD 411. One of the best ways to prepare students for careers is to have the opportunity to connect with alumni who will foster and facilitate early exposure to career opportunities. Students don't often get this kind of help focusing on their goals.

Thursday, October 17, 2019, Goessel High School will host the Alumni Partnership Day. All high school students will have the opportunity to connect with alumni who will share their journey after graduating from Goessel High School. Landon Jordan, '02, will begin the morning as the keynote speaker.

Choices of workshops are listed below.

Joshua Booth - '12 - Sports Information Director

Tara Goerzen Coopriider - '03 - High School Counselor and Coach

Conner Davis - '15 - Patrol Officer - McPherson Police Department

Scott Ferguson - '06 - Cardiopulmonary and Exercise Physiologist

John Goerzen - '97 - Computer Programing

Kellin Jenkins - '06 - Manager for Habitat for Humanity of K. C.

Kevin Nickel - '99 - Exercise Specialist/Wellness Coordinator

Rebecca Hill Stiles - '02 - Licensed Social Worker

Janessa Wedel Waltner - '07 - Structural Design Engineer

We look forward to hearing from these alumni as they offer career advice and inform students about the wide variety of opportunities available in the professional world.

Contact Information

abrahamsi@usd411.org

Editor: Ilona Abrahams

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

Become a member of
The Goessel Alumni
Facebook Page

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

HOT LUNCH OR COLD LUNCH?

Hot lunches have not always been an option at the high school. Many former alumni remember eating cold lunches they had packed. Students were allowed to leave the building and usually had an hour for lunch. Milford Brandt, class of 1938, remembers eating in the car with other boys.

Susie Quiring Wedel, class of 1944, came back to teach at Goessel in 1949. She taught home economics and business for two years. At that time, administration asked her to establish a hot lunch program. She prepared the menus and supervised the serving. Mrs. H. K. Wiebe and Erlene Boese Unruh were the cooks. The students lined up in the hall and received their plate from the kitchen window of the home economics room. After receiving their plates, they were allowed to eat in the study hall room, or if the weather was nice, they could eat outside. State regulations required students to spend at least twenty minutes eating their meal. The general meal consisted of meat, potatoes, bread and butter, vegetables, fruit, and a glass of milk. By 1951 Mrs. Mary Ann Blosser was the lunch supervisor and Mrs. Irwin Koehn had replaced Erlene Unruh. The lunch program was serving 104 students and the cost was 23 cents.

In 1952 the community supported the addition of a Vo-Ag building. A room was made available in this building for a new kitchen and dining room. Students appreciated this addition which allowed seating for at least one hundred students.

By 1969 enrollment had reached 154 and an addition to the existing building was in process. This addition included a new cafeteria with a state of the art kitchen. Mrs. Franklin Goertzen was supervisor. She and Mrs. Willard Dirksen prepared and served the lunches. Now the school lunch program was provided by the federal government. The school was instructed to make a "Type A" meal available to all students and to reduce the inventory of surplus farm products. Meals for high school students were 37 cents, which included milk.

Current supervisor is Sandra Duerksen. She and Janice Voth serve delicious meals at the grade school with Nancy Schmidt and Susie Shipp serving as cooks at the high school. The lunch program has changed throughout the years. In the beginning of the program, produce and some meats were bought from community members. Very little processed food was used. All breads, cookies, and cake were baked from scratch. Most breads are still baked at the school, although cookies and cake are a rarity.

Although produce can no longer be bought from local growers, grade school students have the opportunity to help tend a garden. Fresh cucumbers, peppers, carrots, tomatoes, and other vegetables harvested from the garden are options on the salad bar. The cost of a school lunch has increased considerably since 1949. Instead of 23 cents, high school students now pay \$2.95 and grade school students pay \$2.75.

Goessel is blessed to be able to offer high quality lunches within the confines of strict state regulations. Bierocks aren't necessarily the favorite of all students, but the majority of staff look forward to what is commonly referred to as "it's bierocks day", which translates to, it's going to be a great day!

MURAL REUNION BEING PLANNED

Did you know that the “Small Town Big Heart” mural will be forty years old in September? This mural has become somewhat of an icon. It has been used in letterheads, brochures, websites, and just recently, engagement pictures of a graduate of Goessel High School. So how did the idea of a mural develop?

Brian Stucky, came to teach art at Goessel in the fall of 1979. While walking around town, he began to take notice of buildings and structures and realized things seemed to be a bit dull. He thought maybe something could be done to brighten up the downtown area.

The idea of a mural started to develop. At the time, Keith Banman was manager of the Co-op store. After some discussion they came up with an agreement. If the store would pay for the paint, the art class would do the work.

Brian took the idea back to art class and students began to brainstorm ideas. As designs began to blend, discussion turned to the idea of a slogan. There were a few suggestions and then Jeff Voth suggested, “Goessel: Small Town, Big Heart.” Everyone froze for a minute and then kids agreed, it was not only good, it was really good.

Brian shot a colored slide of the design ad and projected it onto the Co-op wall, which had been painted white. The design was traced at night with magic markers, scaffolding was secured and students began to paint. No concerns were ever voiced about the scaffolding and amazingly no one fell off or got hurt.

Twenty-one students were involved in the 1979 project. In the mid nineties, three students repainted the red. Three students repainted the mural in 1995 and six more did a repaint in 2009.

In honor of the 40th anniversary, all GHS alumni who painted or repainted the Goessel “Small Town Big Heart” mural are invited to come to the mural Saturday, August 2 around 10:30, after the parade for a group photo and a small gift. If you have questions contact Wendy Funk Schrag, class of ‘82 at pwschrag@cox.net.



- - Information about the development of the mural was supplied by Brian Stucky.



Mystery Picture

I don't know anything about this picture. Perhaps someone will recognize an individual, which will help date the picture. I don't believe it is a lunch line. I was wondering whether it might be food preparation for an event, such as a Junior-Senior Banquet.

Let me know if you recognize people or the event.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

US POSTAGE PAID

PERMIT # 8

GOESSEL, KS 67053

Alumni Association

P. O. Box 68

Goesel, KS. 67053