



## Superintendent's Corner

Hello Everyone, it is hard to believe we are already into the new year. The school year is flying by like it always seems to. Hopefully everyone is surviving the winter. Though it has been a mild winter so far, winter is far from over. But, it sure is nice to enjoy these warm temperatures. I just have a few things to share with you.

First, I want to say all our hearts and prayers go out to those who were affected or lost their lives in Newtown, Connecticut. Not just educators, but everyone detests a tragedy like this one. We work very hard to keep your children safe in this district. But things happen at schools, malls, theaters, etc. that cannot be foreseen and prevented. Everyone needs to have an awareness of their surroundings and report anything that seems out of the ordinary. We continue to monitor the doors and keep them locked. We have asked and received an increased presence of Sheriff's Deputies in our buildings. So if you see their vehicles in town, on the roadways, or in our driveways, they are just keeping an eye on things.

In our ongoing attempt to protect our students we see and hear about things being posted on social media. We ask you to be sure to get the parents' permission before posting any pictures of students on social media. Some parents do not want their child(ren) to be exposed. We also might have a student who is placed here by a court asking that no one know where they are for their protection. Thank you.

We are in the middle of our winter extra-curricular activities. We ask that if your young child(ren) attend our events that they sit with their parents during the contest. We worry while they are unsupervised they might get hurt. Thank you for your assistance.

Missouri School Improvement Program version 5 (MSIP 5) has just been approved by the State Board of Education. I am sure you have heard something about this topic in the news media and have wondered; How does this affect our district? MSIP 5 does not go into effect until next year; however, the Missouri Department of Education (DESE) has run a simulation of how districts will be effected using last year's data. There are 140 points possible in the new MSIP 5 and we scored 133.5. Thus we performed at the rate of 95.3 percent. Points are scored in academic performance, attendance, college and career readiness, etc. We did very well and look forward to the challenge of MSIP 5.

I'm sure you have heard, I have resigned my position as Superintendent. I do this with a heavy heart, but it is time to spend more time with our grandchildren as they get older. It has and continues to be a pleasure to serve this community. We have the greatest kids in the world.

Sincerely,

Lane Novinger



## FROM THE DESK OF MR. DITTEMORE

I hope this letter finds each of you doing well and staying warm. The winter weather has been very kind to us this year in terms of days missed. To date we have missed only one day due to inclement weather.

Our current enrollment numbers are at 52 middle school students and 105 high school students, including 32 seniors that are very anxious for May to arrive!

The school district has had several professional development days the past few months and the staff has been working very hard on Curriculum Mapping, SMART goals, and instructional strategies to enhance the learning.

Our Middle School Academic Team stands at a perfect 8-0 in Platte Valley Conference play at the time of this letter and will host the upcoming conference tournament on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9 AM.

Danielle Bailey continues to impress with another trip to audition for All-State Honor Band after qualifying by being named to the All-District Honor Band on the Bass Clarinet. She was named as an Honorable Mention member of the All-State Band!

Middle school basketball season has come and gone. The boys team worked hard throughout the year and capped off their season with a close defeat at the hands of West Platte in the West Platte Tourney. The girls middle school squad finished the year 12-2 and won 1<sup>st</sup> place in both the Mid-Buchanan and West Platte Tournaments.

High School basketball is in full swing as both the girls and boys team approach district play coming up in February. The girls are currently 11-6 overall and 2-0 in the PVC. They won 3<sup>rd</sup> place earlier this season in the PVC Tournament, 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Osborn Invitational and won the consolation championship in the King City Tournament. The boys are currently 12-4 and also 2-0 in the PVC. They managed to win the consolation championship of the PVC Tourney and won the Osborn Invitational for the 5<sup>th</sup> straight year! They also placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the King City Tournament.

Our spring Parent/Teacher conferences will be coming up in March. With the final quarter of the school year upon us by then please stop by

and see us with any questions about the remainder of the school year.

Remember, you may follow school schedules, student progress, activities, etc. at [www.bcr4.k12.mo.us](http://www.bcr4.k12.mo.us) .

Sincerely,

Travis Dittmore

### Dates to Remember

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 2/1      | Court warming Activities<br>BB vs. South Nodaway 6 PM.<br>Coronation to follow BB Games. |
| 2/2      | MS PVC Academic Tourney @ DHS<br>Make up BB Games at Osborn 5 PM.                        |
| 2/4      | No School – Teacher In-Service   |
| 2/6      | ASVAB Testing / Juniors  |
| 2/8      | Grade checks mailed<br>Winter Activity Pictures.   |
| 2/11     | HS Academic Meet @ Jefferson 4:30 PM.  |
| 2/12     | Extended Learning  |
| 2/14     | Extended Learning  |
| 2/18     | No School / President's Day.   |
| 2/18-22  | FFA Week<br>District BB @ North Andrew   |
| 2/21     | District FBLA Contests @ NWMSU   |
| 2/22     | Grade Checks mailed  |
| 2/26     | Extended Learning  |
| 2/28     | Extended Learning<br>HS Academic Meet @ DeKalb 4:30 PM.                                  |
| 3/1      | MS Spring Dance @ 7 PM.  |
| 3/4      | No School / Teacher In-Service   |
| 3/5      | HS Academic Meet @ Stewartsville 4:30 PM.  |
| 3/8      | 3rd Quarter Ends / 12:33 Dismissal   |
| 3/12     | P/T Conferences 4-7 PM   |
| 3/14     | P/T Conferences 1-7 PM / 12:33 Dismissal   |
| 3/15     | No School  |
| 3/22     | Grade Checks Mailed  |
| 3/28-4/1 | No School / Spring Break   |

# A Word From The Elementary Principal

Students and faculty are working hard after a relaxing Christmas break. This is the time of year we begin to gear up for our annual state assessments. It always seems like once the second semester begins the pace picks up and we find ourselves busier than ever. We currently have 152 students enrolled in grades K-6. It's exciting to have both of our preschool programs now full with 20 students in each!

Thank you, parents, for participating in our annual fall conferences. We collaborated regarding 190 out of 192 students.

We are proud of our students' accomplishments over the first semester. Sixty percent of our fifth graders were on an honor roll and eighty-two percent of our sixth graders were on an honor roll. Fifty-six percent of our K-6<sup>th</sup> grade students earned attendance honors for the second quarter. Breakdowns were as follows: 23 Perfect, 45 1 Day or Less, 19 Two Days or Less. Personal Tiger Pride goals were achieved by 56% of our students in grades 3-6. Students selected the following incentives: 11 Chose a Pet Day Pass, 22 Chose DQ, and 13 Chose Subway. Thank you, parents, for financing our DQ treats and Subway!

Congratulations to our fifth and sixth graders for their efforts in our annual spelling bee. The winners were:

	<b>Fifth Grade</b>	<b>Sixth Grade</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	Wyatt Ashpaugh	Cameron Christgen
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	Shaylyn Kelley	Coyote Henderson
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	Paige Morey	Layla McLain
<b>Overall Champion:</b>	Cameron Christgen	

Technology has become an important part of our daily lives and many of our families are regular Facebook participants. It is my understanding that many have posted photos of our students during school parties. While we realize this is a way to share our students' lives with our friends and families, we do ask that you respect the privacy of others by not posting photos taken on school property of other people's children on any social media sites. In addition, it is always appropriate to get permission from the parent of any child before you share their photo on the Internet. Thank you for assisting us in this delicate issue.

We are in the planning stages for the 2013-2014 school year. With that, we have scheduled our preschool screenings and kindergarten roundup. If you have a child entering kindergarten next fall, please contact the elementary to set up a time for your child to participate in roundup on February 22. In addition,

if you have a student that will be three or four years old before August 1 please contact the office to set up a preschool screening time. If you plan to sign your youngster up for one of our preschool programs for the first time, they must be screened. We look forward to working with each of you as you begin your child's educational journey.

The daylight hours are getting a bit longer each week. Even though we are still in the middle of our winter season, it's nice to know that spring is around the corner and nature will begin to look alive again.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Dittmore

## Dates

### February

- 4 No School-Teacher Inservice
- 8 Valentine Parties-2:20
- 8,22 Grade Checks
- 18 No School-President's Day
- 21 Preschool to Bounce, Play, and Jump
- 22 Kindergarten Roundup
- 25-28 Preschool Screenings
- 26 K-2 Tiger Pride 2:50
- 27 Jump Rope for Heart Kickoff Assembly 8:15

### March

- 4 No School-Teacher Inservice
- 8 12:33 Dismissal-End of Third Quarter
- 12 Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00-7:00
- 14 12:33 Dismissal-Parent/Teacher Conferences 1:00-7:00
- 15 No School
- 19 K-2 Tiger Pride 2:30, 3-6 2:45
- 21 Preschool to B & J Skating Rink
- 22 Grade Checks
- 28,29 No School-Easter Break

### April

- 1 No School Easter Break
- 8 Sixth Grade Field Trip
- 9 Preschool To Shatto Dairy
- 11 Spring Pictures
- 12,26 Grade Checks
- 15 No School Teacher Inservice
- 19 MAP Field Trip
- 22-26 STATE ASSESSMENTS
- 23 K-2 Tiger Pride 2:50
- 25 Kindergarten to Deanna Rose
- 29 Career Day

### May

- 1 Career Day
- 2 Preschool to KC Zoo
- 3 Second Grade to One Room School, First Grade to Sea Life and Lego Land
- 9 Grade Checks
- 10 Field Day
- 16 12:33 Dismissal Last Student Day (Tentative)

## Dekalb FFA to National Convention



This past October, 8 members of the DeKalb FFA chapter attended the 85<sup>th</sup> National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Among the 8 members were officers Marli Mears (President), Katie Christgen (Vice President), Eryn Brock (Secretary), Justin Janorschke (Treasurer), Carolyn Kottman (Reporter), and Katharine Sharp (Sentinel). The other two members that attended were Chris Harris and Joe Gunter (alternates). The group arrived in Indianapolis on Tuesday. On Wednesday the group toured the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The members were excited to be on the tour, especially Chris Harris, "It was a once in a life time chance to be out on the track. It was awesome!"

The group got to partake in an old tradition called kissing the bricks. "I thought it was a pretty cool tradition, but also kind of gross," said Marli Mears.

That evening the members attended the opening ceremony of the 85<sup>th</sup> National Convention. "It was pretty cool to see all the people from other states fill up the stadium and come together as a national organization," said Justin Janorschke.

The group got to hear Scott Hamilton, an Olympic gold medalist, talk about his life story and how to overcome obstacles in life. "I like his quote 'The only disability in life is a bad attitude.' I think it is a great quote to live by," said Katharine Sharp.

The kids really thought his speech was inspiring and uplifting about how he overcame cancer and a brain tumor with a great attitude throughout the experience. He was an inspiration to the FFA members. "He is a real inspiration for many people overcoming challenges in life," said Carolyn Kottman.

Wednesday night, the group went to see Brantley Gilbert and The Band Perry in concert at the Lucas Oil Stadium, where the Indianapolis Colts play football. "It was a blast! I had so much fun seeing Brantley Gilbert in concert," said Eryn Brock.

The group had a lot of fun at the concert. "Being in the Colts stadium was cool, also meeting new girls at the concert was a blast," said Joe Gunter.

Early the next morning the kids went to a popcorn factory. The group had fun learning how to make the different flavors of popcorn. Marli got to show everyone how to add cheese to the popcorn. "It was really cool seeing them make the popcorn, I didn't know that such a small factory could make popcorn to be shipped all over the world," said Katie Christgen.

Later that afternoon the members attended the FFA Career show. At the career show they got to see all the different career paths you can go into that deal with agriculture. They had tractors and cars from different companies at the show you could climb in and look around in. Later that evening the group went to a hypnotist. All throughout the show the hypnotist showed how to try and hypnotize someone and make them do things while they are hypnotized. The group had so much fun at the hypnotist show and it was a great way to end the trip in Indianapolis.

Submitted by,  
Carolyn Kottman

# Preschool and Kindergarten News



It is that time again, believe or not, to start getting ready for next year's preschool and kindergarten programs. We will have **Kindergarten Round-Up** on **Friday February 22<sup>nd</sup>**. It is imperative that you call the school at 688-7777 to set up an appointment for your child if they are attending kindergarten next school year. If your child is enrolled in our preschool, **you will not need to make an appointment**. On this day, your child will be given a screening to check for kindergarten readiness along with a vision and hearing screening. The Round-Up will also give you an opportunity for your child to meet the teachers and discuss any questions you may have.

**Preschool Screening** will be **February 25<sup>th</sup> through February 28<sup>th</sup>**. You need to call the school to schedule the preschool screening appointment. Even if you are not interested in preschool, we encourage you to make an appointment to utilize this screening. If you are interested in preschool, your child **MUST** be screened before coming to preschool. All aspects of the screening must be complete in order to attend preschool. **Children who are four years old by August 1<sup>st</sup> will be given the first opportunity to enroll in preschool.** If there are any spots left after all four year olds have been given the opportunity, three year olds will be given the opportunity to enroll. Due to the screening being so early this year, we will do preschool registration in April. We will have a better idea after preschool screening as to how many spots will be available. You will get more information during preschool screening. After our preschool is full with 20 children, we will start a waiting list in the exact order that the registrations are received. We will provide an additional program based on the needs of our families.

In April, we will have an Early Childhood Night for all incoming preschoolers and kindergartners. This will be an opportunity for you and your child to take a tour of the building, ask any questions that you may have, and get information regarding the classroom, buses, and health information. You will receive more information regarding the Early Childhood Night at the Round-Up and Preschool Screening.

If you have any questions regarding any of the information, please do not hesitate to call the school at 688-7777. We look forward to starting our long lasting relationship with your family.



On January 9<sup>th</sup> DeKalb Middle School had their first Spelling Bee in a long time. The students participated in an informal bee that yielded the following winners: Marissa Baugh won first place for 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Bryston Salmons qualified for alternate. For the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class Averi Black took first place and Austin Rollett is the alternate. The first place winners will advance to the county level on February 9, 2013, with alternates stepping in if the first place winners cannot compete due to illness or unforeseen circumstances. Good luck students!!



Visit Us On The Web At [www.bcr4.k12.mo.us](http://www.bcr4.k12.mo.us)

**Buchanan County R-IV School District  
702 Main Street  
DeKalb MO 64440**

Non-Profit  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
DeKalb MO  
Permit No. 2

Box Holder