

USD 467 Community Newsletter

December 16, 2008

Wichita County Public Schools

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RB Stewart Elementary
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Leoti, Kansas 67861
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Wichita Co. Junior High
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Dear USD 467 Community,

Please take a few minutes to read our community newsletter. We hope the information is helpful and informative. Thank you for supporting your community schools and thank you to all who have contributed to this effort. Feel free to contact us with ideas and comments!

From the Superintendent-

*Dear Wichita County
Community,*

*What is a community school?
One would think this
statement to be a simple
question, but it is not true
everywhere. In large
communities the schools are
often isolated from the
community as they compete
with colleges and other
organizations for the same
resources. In Wichita County,
we must be seamless and work
together not just for the
students, but for the best
interest of the community.*

*How can we continue to be a
community school?*

- ✓ *Sharing our facilities*
- ✓ *Using our students for*

Wichita County High School Named a Top School

For the second year in a row, Wichita County High School was named one of the Best High Schools in the nation. *U. S. News & World Report*—in collaboration with School Evaluation Services, a K-12 education and data research and analysis business that provides parents with education data on schoolmatters.com—analyzed academic and enrollment data from more than 21,000 public high schools to find the very best across the country. These top schools were placed into gold, silver, bronze, or honorable mention categories.

WCHS scored in the bronze category, along with only 34 other high schools in the state of Kansas. This year there were no gold or honorable mention schools, and only 2 placed in the silver category. The full listing of schools can be found online at:
http://www.usnews.com/directories/high-schools/index_html/state_id+KS/page_number+1/page_size+10/sort+alpha/name+/award+Bronze+Gold+Honorable%20Mention+Silver/school_name+/county+/detail+less

A tremendous Thank You goes to the teachers and staff at Wichita

service such as the recent community service day, performing at the senior citizen's luncheons, and visits to the long term care center

- ✓ *Working together with other agencies: Big Brothers/Big Sister, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts*
- ✓ *Joint projects with the city, county, and hospital, such as our current efforts on energy audits*
- ✓ *Working together with business to hire employees and to shop locally as much as possible*
- ✓ *Collaborate with Economic Development to bring new families to our community*

It is often said for a healthy community to exist and have a foundation you must have a solid school system and hospital. We are glad to do our part to contribute to Wichita County. Thank you for all your help so we can do so.

*Respectfully,
Dr. Jim Hardy*

County High School for making us a top school in the nation! Your hard work and dedication in taking the time and making the extra effort for the student's success does pay off! Congratulations and Well Done!!

SUBSCRIBE TO TEXTCASTER!

TEXTCASTER is online and active! Don't miss out on school district activities-sports, music, meetings, school closings. Go to leoti.org and sign-up today. Scroll down to the link and follow the easy two-step process and you will become part of the Wichita County USD 467 family!

USD 467 Joins with City of Leoti, Wichita County and Wichita County Health Center to Participate in Energy Audit Plan!

The Kansas Facility Conservation Improvement Program (FCIP) is a streamlined program that allows all government organizations, including school districts, to have more energy efficient buildings without having to use district savings. This is called energy savings performance contracting. USD 467, the City of Leoti, Wichita County, and the Wichita County Health Center are working together to participate in the FCIP program. The initial result will be an assessment identifying possible improvements to our facilities that will give us significant savings on utility bills, and provide a quality environment for our students, staff, and community members. The program works by having an energy company guarantee a specific savings over our current cost for energy if we follow their recommendations for improvement to the facilities and for following their protocols for energy use. The guaranteed savings make the payments for any facility improvements. If the guaranteed savings is not met, the energy company agrees to pay the difference and must continue to do so until the savings are met. There are several steps for participation in the State FCIP Plan: 1) Agree to the initial no cost energy audit and select three companies to visit your facilities; 2) The three selected companies visit each participating government organization for their

Thank you!

- **WCHS Booster Club- Spirit wear, dinner and dessert at musical, meals before football games, donations to the Scholar's Bowl, and basketball team.**
- **Music groups and individuals that perform at Senior Citizen's Luncheons**
- **All the parents and staff who made the WCJH Dance-a-thon a success.**

Parents!!-Are you using Power School?

Powerschool is the student information system that all Wichita County Schools use. Using their computers, parents are able to access their student's grades, attendance, lunch account and other useful information. To sign up, please go to your student's school and you will be given your family password and the directions on how to use the program.

preliminary audit; 3) Each of the energy companies makes a presentation, and one is selected to do an investment grade audit; 4) The investment grade audit is an in depth study of the facilities and the use of energy. Cost of the investment energy audit is 6 cents per square foot of facility. We are writing a grant to help pay for the cost of the investment grade audit. 5) With the state providing oversight with their attorneys and engineers an energy performance contract is signed and the effort begins to make the improvements. 6) Again, with help from the Kansas Energy Office the savings are verified and payments for the improvements are made from the savings in utility bills. Because the city, county, hospital and school district are working together to participate in the FCIP program, we are a more lucrative project. Thank you to the City of Leoti, Wichita County, and the Wichita County Health Center for working with us on this project.

RB Stewart and Wichita County Junior High

The fourth graders have been learning *The Night Before Christmas*, by Clement Moore. As a gift to the community, Friday, December 19th, they will be walking around town to share their gift of poetry. They will be going to the Long Term Care Center, the Wichita County Health Center, the library, the court house, banks, newspaper, and other locations.

WCHS News!

“Coins for a Chill Day” Held at WCHS

By Mackenzie Brown

Plink, plink, plink...the coins dropped in one by one. Students entered the front doors with jars and containers of all sorts overflowing with pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. They each walked by the front desk and dropped their money in the buckets as one by one each were filled until they were so full that some of the contents had to be poured into another bucket. Chill Day, long hoped for and anticipated by the students at WCHS, was to become reality.

“Coins for a Chill Day” has been going on for two years in a row now, with a similar event the year before. The purpose of this day is to serve our community by raising money for the local food bank. Each year Student Council chooses the size of container that the students will have to fill with change, like coffee cans, or, this year, five quart ice cream buckets. There is a bucket assigned to each hour of the day like first hour, second hour and so on through seventh. The students must fill up a bucket to get that particular hour of the day off. For example, if second hour is filled, there will be no classes in the building during that hour. If all of the classes get cancelled, there are games in the gym like human foosball, movies in the auditorium and games in some of the other classrooms like jeopardy, scavenger hunts and family feud. For students who need to study, there is always the option of going to the classrooms and getting homework done, or reading and other academically related activities in the library. This year, the students raised \$1,006.45 in change, to be presented to the

Congratulations to our Southwest Kansas Music Educators Middle School and High School Honor Choir Participants:

Wichita County Junior High

Tareena Hembree
Nicole Huber
Allison Miller
Parker Hassell
Tyrelle Thurman
Alberto Gallegos
Tyler Kiser
Bryce Nickelson
Benjamin Rempel

Wichita County High School

Kayla Graff
Traci Brown
Clancy Masterson
Trae Bremer

We also had six students selected for the All-State choirs that will perform in February at the KMEA In-Service Workshop in Wichita. The students made audition CD's that were sent in and judged against entries from across the state. The All-State Children's Choir and the All-State Middle Level Choir are made up of 200 of the best singers from around the state. Each choir had over 700 entries, so we are extremely proud to have six of our students chosen!! Those students are:

All-State Children's Choir:

Shaley White - WCHS
Taylor Angeles - WCHS
Nicole Huber - WCJHS
Allison Miller - WCJHS

All-State Middle Level Choir

Jordan Fischer - WCJHS
Edson Nayar Castillo – WCJHS

Ministerial Alliance for the food bank on Wednesday, December 3rd.

WCHS would like to thank the staff at Western State Bank for making this possible by counting all of the change collected. The students and faculty really enjoyed raising the money and “chilling” out for a day. WCHS and Student Council hopes to continue this great tradition for many years to come.

COINS FOR ANGELS

RBSES students experienced the gift of giving this season. The students collected coins to sponsor two angels from the Security State Bank’s Angel Tree. The students collected over \$300.00. These funds were used to purchase gifts for two very special local children.

The USD 467 Board of Education, administration, staff and students wish you a meaningful holiday season. We thank you and appreciate your support of your community schools!

For more up to date school news, stories, and pictures, please subscribe to the Leoti Standard. Thanks to Pat and Leslie for their great coverage of our community schools!!!!

“Continuing Our Tradition of Excellence in Education.”