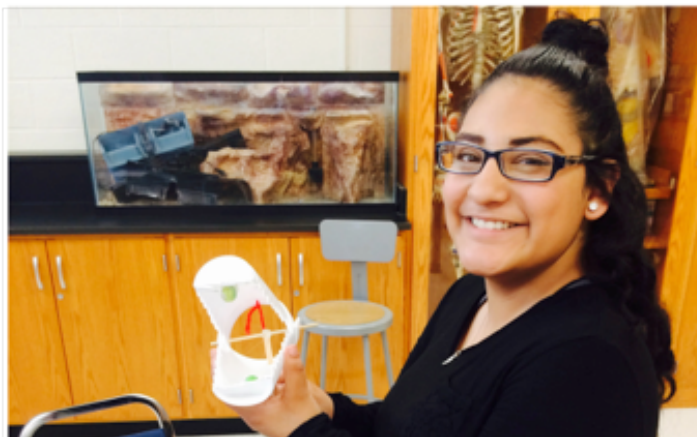


EAGLE PROFILE

The Official Newsletter of USD 303

NCHS Forensics

Third year is a charm, right? The 2017 forensics season, which was the third season for the team, was a success for our ten competitors, with at least two performances breaking finals at every tournament, and seven students making it to state competition on May 6. Five students competed at the State Festival in Salina and did very well. Landon Reinhardt, Savannah Moore and Alysson Foos performed their prose pieces, and Savannah received a I rating on her performance. Angelena Copeland earned a trip to state with her poetry piece. Landon and Cicely Moody performed in IDA and received a I rating. Trace Flax and Jaymi Stewart performed at State Championship in Wichita. Trace performed a Humorous Solo, and Jaymi earned a place at state with both a Humorous Solo and a Serious Solo. Out of approximately 32 competitors, Jaymi placed 3rd with her Serious Solo performance. Others who competed in forensics this year were Kyla Stephen, Jocelyn Walker, and Abby Cardenas. The team would like to thank Renee Schaffer for spending Saturday, May 6, in Wichita judging state championships. Without her, we wouldn't have been able to compete!



Janie Rodriguez with her snapping alligator string puppet.

Physical Science Classes Make MakerSpace Toy Kits

The Physical Science Classes constructed toy kits from recyclable materials and simple household items. They created these kits for the pre-school, kindergarten and first grade students.



Jennifer Guerrero with her butterfly automata. The butterfly moves up and down with the turn of a simple lever.

Students first constructed a working prototype of a toy. Then they created a construction manual for the toy. Due to the limited reading abilities of the kit recipients, students had to limit their use of written language in their manual. Students had to express their instructions in visual diagrams with very few

Summer Food Service Program

Just as learning does not end when school lets out, neither does the need for good nutrition. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is designed to fill the nutrition gap that occurs in the summer. The program provides free, nutritious meals and snacks to help children in low-income areas get the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow, throughout the summer months when they are out of school. In cooperation with the federal and state food service program, we are providing you with the information regarding the serving sites in our area. Please use the following link to find a site that fits your needs....

<https://goo.gl/dOrJRV>

Additionally, parents can find summer meal sites in the community they live or are visiting by texting the word "food" and the zip code to 877-877. By texting the word "Comida" to the same number, parents can access the meal sites in Spanish.

USD 303 - Ness City is not a Summer Food Service Program serving site. However, this program will once again be offered at the Ness County Courthouse. The program will begin June 1st and run through June 30th. Meals will be served from 11:30 - 12:30 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, to children in all grade levels.

and simple words. Next the students assembled the materials to create the toy and included them in the kit for a young student to create. The Physical Science students really enjoyed this end of the year activity. They really put a lot of effort and thought into their kits knowing they were going to be used by the primary grades. Some of the toy kits created were catapults, balloon powered cars, guitars, tops, and moveable string puppets.

Mrs. Tillitson's 3rd Grade Learns through Passion Projects

The third graders in Mrs. Tillitson's class have been extremely busy since returning from spring break. The end of March we wore red ties to help Mrs. Buethe's class spread Hemophilia awareness. In April, the class worked extremely hard to exceed their \$1,000 goal by raising \$1495.00 for the Ransom fire victims by holding a week long Principal's Challenge. In May, the students' semester-long hard



work came to fruition when their Passion Projects were displayed at the NCES/NCHS Open Houses. Just after returning from winter break, students chose a topic that they are passionate about and began the task of designing a way to share their knowledge with others. Some students chose to create presentations while others opted to design

and build interactive games such as a trivia embedded ring toss. Earlier in the year, students requested a reiteration day to improve their fall Cardboard Challenge projects. At the beginning of May students not only improved upon their designs, but created even more both individually and in teams. To celebrate all of their end of the year accomplishments, the class systematically planned and executed a class party complete with food and games.

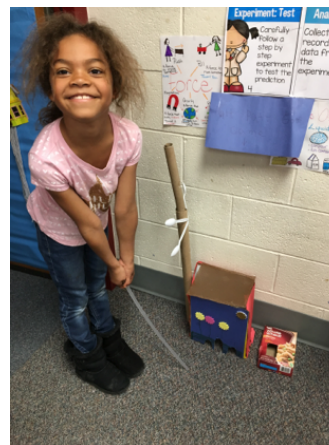
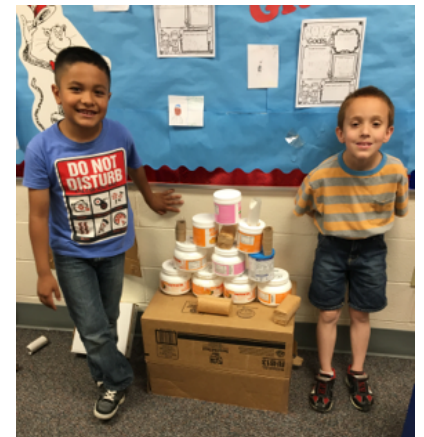
Ness City National Honor Society Inducts New Members

The Ness City NHS is proud to induct 7 new members this year. Each of these students have displayed excellence in the classroom, leadership in extracurriculars and our community, and character throughout. We are pleased to welcome Kerri Bruntz, Angelena Copeland, Alysson Foes, Baylee Holocek, Mario Luna, John Pfannenstiel, and Landon Reinhardt as our new members.



2nd Grade Works on Soft Skills

Second grade finished off the year strong with a lot of group and partner projects to practice communication skills, teamwork skills, and brainstorming skills. Some of the projects we created were weathervanes (complete with the cardinal directions) and a paper airplane so we could measure how far it traveled. Our biggest project was creating and building our very own carnival games so we could then practice counting our money to play those games. Not only did our class play the carnival games, but we also had other classes and Mr. Reinhardt come try the games and practice their money skills as well. The kids had a blast with this project and it was amazing to see what their minds came up with! We also finished the year with an obstacle course that we made with the first graders. After the groups brainstormed for ideas, the students created the course and the different obstacles.



When we were finished constructing, we brought the obstacles outside and set them up for everyone to go through!

Ness City Eagle Strength & Conditioning

“It Is A Great Day To Be An Eagle” and that is exactly how I feel on this Monday after the conclusion of the State Track Meet. As I reflect back on the 2016-2017 athletic year I am proud and excited about the success and improvement that our athletic teams showed this year. However success is a fickle thing, as soon as you rest, as soon as you become content with the success you have had in the past it can vanish and vanish quickly.

Summer weights provides athletes with an opportunity to improve themselves for the new seasons that will be upon us very quickly. Strength and Conditioning is one area that is neither gender or sport specific, nor is it height, weight or age specific either. Barbells do not care who is moving them. The focus of our program, regardless if it is an off-season program which the summer program is, or an in-season program which would be our school based classes, is designed and implemented to build athletes. Plain and simple. Becoming a better athlete spans all three sport seasons, male or female. Is the program the same for everyone? In a generic terms yes. Everyone benefits from getting stronger. While the basis of our program is improving muscular strength, improving muscular power and muscular speed are also covered. The aim is to build Power Athletes.

Summer sessions for HS Boys begin on Tuesday May 30th at 6:30am. Normal workout days for HS Boys will be Monday-Thursday 6:30-8:00am.

The sessions for the HS Girls and the JH Boys and Girls will begin on Wednesday June 14th. The HS Girls session will be Monday-Thursday 8:00-9:00am.

The JH Sessions will be Monday-Thursday 9:00-10:00am.

Follow us on Twitter @nesscitySC.

If you have any questions regarding the summer sessions or our program in general please contact us at the school. 785.798.3991

The Summer Slide

As much as teachers and students love summer vacation, there’s always a little panic that sets in as we pack up the classrooms and send our children off for those three months of fun in the sun. What if they never pick up a book? Will they forget all those math facts they were so close to learning? We’ve worked so hard together to master these skills. What if when they return in August, they forget? The loss of skills during the summer in the educational world is



known as “The Summer Slide” and it is very real. “The Summer Slide” is the tendency for students to lose some of the academic achievement gains they made during the previous school year.

So, what’s the answer? First and foremost, if your child tends to struggle in certain academic areas, I highly suggest summer school. Another recommendation is to take full advantage of the Ness City Public Library’s enrichment programs and wide variety of books. Research indicates that giving students the opportunity to select what books they want to read based on their personal interests and within their reading level can eliminate summer reading loss, and even accelerate learning over the summer. Below is the website which lists the summer programs the Ness City Public Library will be offering. You may also register your child on their website. <http://nesscitylibrary.org/>

NCHS Golf

If one word should be used to describe this year’s Eagle Golf team, it would be “growth”. After a shaky start to the year at the Hoisington Invitational, each student has shown improvement from meet to meet, from hole to hole. As the season progressed and scores started to drop, the Eagles were able to bring home a team Championship from the Grinnell Invitational, Runner up finish at the Trego JV meet, and a Runner Up finish in the Central Prairie League! I want to personally thank Carrie Beutler for helping me transport the kids and keep me organized, and Weston Vogel for teaching the kids the finer points of the game. On to the individual efforts!

Matt Hahn: 1st Place finish at the Grinnell Invitational, 4th Place finish CPL.

Kade Stoecklein: Finished 8th at Grinnell, 11th at Trego JV, 14th at Hill City, and 10th at CPL.

Clay Beutler: Finished 12th overall at Grinnell

Brayden Vogel: Finished 8th at the Trego JV meet. Finished 11th at CPL.

Dayton Copeland: Finished 7th at Trego JV, 14th at Grinnell, and 12th at CPL

Ryan Gabel: Finished 6th at the CPL JV meet.

Jenna Werth: Finished just outside of the medals at Jetmore and CPL JV.

Summer Pfannenstiel: Finished 9th at CPL JV

Finally, Matt Hahn and Kade Stoecklein were able to qualify for the Class 2A state championship in Garden City! Congratulations to all of the golfers on a fine season.

NCES Students Take Opportunity to Learn Outside of the Classroom

This spring the students at Ness City Elementary had many opportunities to participate in hands-on learning and fun through field trips. The students there were able to extend their learning upon returning to school.

Many of the students spent the days learning about animals and how



they fit into our lives and our past. The first grade students spent the day at the dairy in Scott City, learning more about milk and how it fits into a healthy diet. They took this knowledge back to the healthy foods unit they were working on. Sixth graders explored Cedar Bluff Reservoir and learned more about the ecosystem from the Park Rangers there. Kindergarten students spent the day scouting out the animals at the Great Bend-Brit Spaugh Zoo.

The second and fourth grade classes spent the day at the Sternberg Museum in Hays. Through guided tours, they learned more about the animals living in Kansas today as well as those which lived millions of years ago. Shelby Heim, second grade teacher, enjoyed the tours. "I thought it was an awesome experience and my class loves dinosaurs so they were really intrigued and interested. They still talk about it a week later." Both classes brought their knowledge back to pair with new research projects. The second graders each focused on one animal from a tour and created a poster about that animal. The fourth graders compared and contrasted the animals from the tours against each other and against animals from Kansas and around the United States.

The third grade classes took a different approach to their field trip. Both classes traveled to the Walnut Bowl in Great Bend. They learned new bowling techniques. When they returned to school, they created a new game based on what they learned on the lanes.

The Preschool classes were able to visit many different sites throughout the school year. Some of these include a construction site, radiology department at the hospital, the grain elevator, police station and the Health Department. The students were able to participate in a tour and listened to what the job involved. They were able to explore the occupation more during center time when they returned to school. All of these field trips fit into the career exploration units in the preschool classes. "I really liked how we got to experience many different careers and this gave the children a better understanding of the different careers that are available to them when they grow up," Lesa Schulte expressed. Megan Balman and the fifth grade class also took a different approach.

They spent the afternoon at the Ness City Park, playing kickball and having a picnic. The students focused their day on building a family-like culture and teamwork. "We all had a great time. They had to use teamwork when deciding who was bringing what, as well as during kickball. I loved seeing them all get along and enjoy a fun filled afternoon," Ms. Balman remarked.



NCES students experienced many opportunities for non-traditional learning this spring. They all enjoyed the chance to get out of the classroom and learn from experts as well as each other.

NCHS Track

Coming off of a 2nd place TEAM finish at the state meet last season, this year's squad had 15 girls and 28 boys join the team. With 43 student athletes, this was the largest number of kids in 5 seasons. We had a great coaching staff with lots of experience. Marc Cowles and Shawn Starr are in their 2nd years with the program. Former Ness City greats and Coach Younger understudies, Case Beckman and Kendra Pfannenstiel are in their 1st seasons of coaching in the program. I've told all who will listen that our coaching staff is top notch and I would put our coaching staff up against any other school's across the state, regardless of classification.



We have 4 seniors on the squad but all and all, we are a pretty young team as both the girls and boys have relied on Freshman to fill multiple relays and various field events. Levi Armon and Chandler Stiawalt have picked up where they left off from state last season as they have consistently led the team in 1st place finishes and Levi has re-broke his school record in the Shot and Discus multiple times. Chandler is very close to school records as well. Due to bad weather throughout the season we were kind of in a rut in the running events but the week before League at Jetmore and Bucklin we really started to show what we are made off. Literally everyone had at least one p.r. Those 2 meets really kick-started in preparation for the Championship portion of the season. At League, the kids competed extremely tough. I was very proud of the way they handled the pressure and fought from the start to the finish. For a couple of weeks now, I have used the term "flock up". The kids have responded well to it and have illustrated it at meets. As a coach it is so much fun watching a TEAM come together. One of our biggest goals going into this season was defending our League title. We did just that edging out Macksville by 7 points. Getting a Salvy Splash, although very cold, never gets old (Thank You Chandler!). We headed to Regionals with many athletes seeded in the top 6 in their respected events and high hopes of qualifying several for the State Meet!

I appreciate everything our seniors (Chandler Stiawalt, Levi Armon, Trace Flax and Jaycie Richardson) have brought to the program the last 4 years. They have been a huge part of keeping the tradition alive and strong of always having competitive teams. Jaycie unfortunately, severely injured her hamstring so is unable to participate the rest of the season but still has been a huge asset to the team. Trace has worked very hard and I am excited to see what he can do at the end of the season! Chandler and Levi are ready again to lead the team to Regional and State! I wish the seniors well as they are about to start a new chapter in their lives!

We had 21 athletes compete at Regionals May 19th. The Boys team placed 2nd overall with 78 points! The following is list of our state qualifiers:

- Wyatt Rupp-100 4th 12.0
- Chandler Stiawalt-High Jump 1st 6-0, Long Jump 2nd 21-0.5, Triple Jump 1st 43-11.2
- Levi Armon-Shot 1st 54-3, Discus 2nd 138-5
- Trevor VanDeGrift-Shot 3rd 43-8, Discus 4th 131-7
- John Pfannenstiel-Javelin 2nd 154-7
- Brennan Chacon-Javelin 4th 144-8
- Boys 4x100 Relay: Dylan Muniz-Wyatt Rupp-Nate Gabel-Chandler Stiawalt-3rd 45.7
- Baylee Holecek-400 4th 1:03.7, 100 Hurdles 3rd 16.7
- Tiana Epperson-Shot 2nd 35-4, Discus 3rd 103-7.25, Javelin 2nd 110-7



The ten athletes then competed at State on the campus of Wichita State University May 26th and 27th. The boys placed 6th with 36 points. The following are the results from our 10 competitors:

- Tiana Epperson-Had a great season, made finals in all 3 events! Inching closer to school records!
 - Javelin 2nd 139-1 P.R. by almost 20 feet!
 - Shot 9th 35-10 Tied P.R.!
 - Discus 9th 103-0
- Baylee Holecek-Had a great season on the track in many events! Ready for big senior season!
 - 100 hurdles 7th 16.8 Firstx state medal in open event!
 - 400 11th 1:03.6
- Levi Armon-What a way to end your high school career! Good Luck next season at Cloud!
 - Shot 1st 59-1.25 NEW STATE MEET AND SCHOOL RECORD!!!
 - Discus 8th 137-2
- Chandler Stiawalt-A freak athlete, Younger enjoyed coaching you! Good luck at WSU!
 - Triple Jump 1st 45-5.75 Less than 2 inches from p.r.!
 - Long Jump 2nd 21-4.75 Less than 4 inches from p.r.!
 - High Jump 3rd 6-4
- John Pfannenstiel-Stage wasn't too big for 1st time at state. Will be back in multiple events!
 - Javelin 8th 161-10 P.R. by over 7 feet!
- Brennan Chacon-Much better performance 2nd time. Going to have a great senior season!
 - Javelin 9th 161-4 P.R. by over 2 feet!
- Trevor VanDeGrift-Was a consistent scorer throughout the season! Getting on podium next season!
 - Shot 11th 44-4
 - Discus 14th 129-8
- Wyatt Rupp-Had a great Freshman season. Coaching staff expects big things next season!

-100 12th 11.6

Boys 4x1 Relay-Return 3 from this relay so we will be ready to get back on the stand!

Dylan Muniz-Wyatt Rupp-Nate Gabel-Chandler Stiawalt 13th 46.08

Once again we were able to get a big group qualified for state. I thought the 2 girls performed very well. Baylee has 2 years of state experience but never had an individual medal to show for it. She ran tough in a very competitive 100m hurdle race to place 7th! Can't say enough about Tiana. In her first year of high school track she qualifies in all 3 throwing events and makes finals in all 3! Her big throw in javelin earned her a 2nd place medal! Once again, Chandler and Levi kind of carried the team. Very impressive throw by Levi in the shot! He has put in a lot of work in the event and it showed big time! Very hard for an athlete to repeat as state champ in 3 events but Chandler came very close in doing so. He has been a pleasure to coach the past 3 years and future looks very bright as he goes on to compete for Wichita State. John and Brennan both launched 2 big p.r.'s in the Javelin and both nearly made it on stand. These 2 are ready to really take off next season. 8 of the 10 competitors return next season so I am already super excited for next season. I believe we will be able to qualify multiple boys and girls relays and hopefully many more in open events. It was a great season. I want to thank all the kids for their hard work. I wish the 2 seniors well as they take their talents to the next level. And I hope the other 8 kids are ready to put in the necessary work that it takes to get back to Wichita next season hungrier than ever!

PK Learns About Life Cycles

This spring the Ness City preschoolers have been learning about life cycles. They have studied about both plants and animals. They watched bulbs, seeds, and tubers turn into growing plants that needed water, air, and sun. However, they didn't much like our Kansas winds. The most fun came when they got to see the baby chicks and the butterflies hatch. Oh, the excitement! The class also hatched ladybugs and praying mantis. Even the teachers learned about baby praying mantis. Teaching science to kids is a beautiful thing!



JH Track

We began the season with 32 kids on the track and I knew before the season even started we would be a team to compete with. These kids came out and worked hard every day, they competed well and really pushed each other to be their best.

Often times they were hard to keep busy, the determination these kids have to be the best is outstanding.

The 7th grade girls were a small team, made up of just four. They competed strong and placed in the top half at almost every meet! The 7th grade boys won our first three meets, placing second and third



at Leoti, Wakeeney and Plainville but coming back strong to win the League Meet in LaCrosse! Our 8th grade girls, also a small team of only five worked well together on every relay and pushed each other to accomplish their goals! The 8th grade boys had a much larger team and would do whatever it took to fill a relay and compete to the best of their potential.

At the LaCrosse regular season meet our junior high team together broke 7 meet records and came home with several gold medals!

Best of luck to our 8th graders as they enter high school, I cannot wait to watch the achievements these athletes reach as a class and as individuals!

I appreciate the support from parents, the hard work and dedication the athletes have had and their desire to learn and improve.

I am already looking forward to next years track season and the great improvements we will make. Huge thank you to Coach Schulte, Coach Rebel, Coach Beckman, Coach Younger, Coach Cowles and Coach Starr in helping us reach our potential.

4th Graders Feel Year Went Fast!

The end of the school year is approaching quickly. If you ask the 4th grade students how they think their year went, they would say fast! Even as a teacher I can not believe how quick the year has gone by. Within this year there have been many fun and awesome memories that I will never forget. Being able to see this class grow not only as into some wonderful individuals but seeing them grow academically has been something special. Many of them have a passion for learning. When they are given an obstacle they do not quit until they figure it out. We went into the school year with the attitude that it is not a bad thing to fail. When you fail you are able to see what you need to change and how you can get better. Being in this class you have to be ready to step outside of your comfort zone. Throughout the year we have had a nice mixture of being in and out of the classroom to learn. To start of the year one of the first things that we were able to attend was the Ag. Safety day in Jetmore. This had many stations that taught the students about several different things that



Sabryn Copeland trying to figure out a math problem using task cards



A group of 4th grade boys during our FFA day



Using Kahoot as a review game

included objects that they see every day. Another opportunity that we had was put on by our very own FFA. They presented us with several different centers that sparked a lot of questions and interest about agriculture. Apart from these awesome opportunities we also like to get up and move throughout the elementary building. On the list for class favorites are things such as Kahoot, Quizizz, task cards, and collecting data from other students and teachers for graphs.

Ness City High School Awards Banquet

The Ness City High School Awards Banquet was held on May 17th in the high school cafeteria followed by the Awards Ceremony in the high school auditorium. Many students, families, and community members were on hand as we celebrated the many accomplishments of our high school students. Students were recognized for participation in KAYS, Scholars Bowl, Band, Vocal, Art, Industrial Art, Drama/Forensics, as well as academic and athletics accomplishments. Many local scholarships and local and state recognitions were awarded. We would especially like to thank the community for their dedication to helping make these scholarships possible.



Izzi Reinhardt volunteered during one of the stations at Ag. Safety Day in Jetmore.

Seniors

Levi Armon

Scholarship – Ness City Booster Club

Lexea Barnes

Scholarship – Ness City Booster Club, Ness City FFA

Zachiary Bochy-Kimber

Awards - President's Education Award

Devin Brown

Scholarship – Ness City Booster Club

Alexis Clarke

Scholarships – Helen Foster Ward, Orville and Beulah Klitzke Memorial, Mark Goodman Knights of Columbus, Chapter FW PEO, Ness City Booster Club, American Red Cross, American Legion, Ness City Rotary Club, Ness County Healthcare Foundation, Sacred Heart Alter Society

Awards - President's Education Award, Principal's Honor Roll Award, Principal's Leadership Award, Kansas Honor Student

Chance Cupp

Scholarship – Ness City Booster Club

Emily Dawes

Scholarship – Ness City Booster Club

Wyatt Delaney

Scholarships – Orville and Beulah Klitzke Memorial, Ness City Booster Club, Ness City Rotary Club

Awards - President's Education Award, Dale Dennis Award, Kansas Scholar Curriculum Completer Award, Kansas Honor Student

Payton Fellhoelter

Scholarship – Ness City Booster Club, American Legion Auxiliary

Trace Flax

Scholarships - Mark Goodman Knights of Columbus, Ness City Booster Club, American Red Cross, Sacred Heart Alter Society

Awards - President's Education Award, Lyle C. Goff Award

Madison Gabel

Scholarship – Ness City Booster Club

Matthew Hahn

Scholarship – Ness City Booster Club, United Methodist Church

Sierra Hamilton

Scholarship – Ness City Booster Club

Paola Jurado

Scholarship – Ness City Booster Club

Leviathan Kelley

Scholarship – Ness City Booster Club

Kristen Klitzke

Scholarships - Ness City Booster Club, Ness County Healthcare Foundation

Awards - President's Education Award

Darian McClure

Scholarships - Ness City Booster Club

Awards - President's Education Award, Kansas Scholar Curriculum Completer Award

Payton Rice

Scholarship – Ness City Booster Club

Jaycie Richardson

Scholarship - Mark Goodman Knights of Columbus, Chapter FW PEO, Ness City Booster Club, United Methodist Church, Ness City Rotary Club, Ness County Healthcare Foundation

Awards - President's Education Award, Craig Horchem Courage Award

Sarinna Rogers

Award - President's Education Award

Cole Rupp

Scholarship – Ness County Farm Bureau

Logan Schlegel

Scholarship – Ness City Booster Club

Awards - President's Education Award

Chandler Stiawalt

Scholarship – Ness City Booster Club

Award - President’s Education Award

Reese Wallgren

Scholarship – Ness County Healthcare Foundation

Robert Wierman

Scholarships - Mark Goodman Knights of Columbus, Ness City Booster Club, Ness County Farm Bureau

Awards - President’s Education Award, Governor’s Award, Kansas Honor Student, Ness City Rotary Club

Juniors

Trey Freel – Principal’s Honor Roll

Mario Luna - Principal’s Honor Roll

Madison Seery - Principal’s Honor Roll

Sophomores

Alysson Foos - Principal’s Honor Roll

Taylor Murray - Principal’s Honor Roll

Landon Reinhardt - Principal’s Honor Roll

Freshmen

Abby Cardenas - Principal’s Honor Roll

6th Grade Trip to Cedar Bluff

Mr. Schulte’s 6th grade class went to Cedar Bluff State Park on May 10th. The class had a fun time learning about animals, reservoirs, fishing, and much more.

In the morning the student’s focus was on Kansas waters and learning how to catch fish. David Spalsbury, who is a Kansas fisheries biologist, was kind enough to take time out of his day to help the kids. He discussed his methods for catching large quantities of fish and how he studies Kansas waters and the fish in them.

After learning about electrofishing, netting, and much more, the students had the chance for a hands-on fishing experience. Out of seventeen students, fourteen of them caught fish. Fish species caught included bluegill, channel catfish, and largemouth bass. For many of the students it was their first time fishing. For most, it will not be their last!

After fishing and a picnic lunch, Kent Hensley from the Kansas Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism gave the kids a wildlife presentation. His presentation focused mainly on the animals we find in our area. The students appreciated Kent’s hand-on approach



to learning. They were able to identify various types of animals through furs, embryos, and skeletons. The presentation also featured a 6 ½ foot live Coachwhip snake!

At the end of the day the students were exhausted. They gained a great amount of knowledge in a short amount of time. After getting back to school and talking with other classes, the 5th grade has already announced they want to do something similar to this year's field trip. Mr. Schulte may have to take next year's class to Cedar Bluff as well! :)



Rhonda Friend Visits NCES

On April 5, the Ness City Elementary School students were treated to a visit from Ronda Friend, author of a series of books called Down on Friendly Acres. She arrived at the HS auditorium about 12:30 pm and was assisted unloading her car by several sixth grade students. From 1:00 pm until around 1:45, she entertained the students with stories about her family and songs which she had written. Several teachers and students were called on stage to assist her while the audience participated in some of her songs and actions. Ronda is from the Nashville, TN area and has presented to around 2,000 schools in several states. Students and staff had the opportunity to purchase some of her books which she autographed after her presentation. The visit was arranged by the library department, Coline Marcus, Jo Pfannenstiel, and Carrie Beutler.



Financial State of the District

In January, I shared about the wonderful subject of taxes and how they fund the school district. If you remember, the School Board approved a Budget for the 16/17 school year that was about \$180,000 short of our max authority which saved our local tax payers around 6 MILLS of taxes, but resulted in a \$180,000 budget cut from the previous year. We felt we could do this due to some extra carry over and savings the District had available. As we close out the 16/17 school year, I am proud to say that we were able to leave our savings untouched, but did

use up a good portion of our carryover money. Preliminary numbers show we will be starting the school year with around \$150,000 in carryover. This is about half of what we prefer to start the year with. This money allows us to get the year up and running before we receive our first payments from the State. It also appears that through the new funding formula approved by the Kansas Legislature, the District will be receiving around \$230,000 in new moneys. Due to our fiscal responsibility, savings, and these new dollars, our goal is to continue providing a quality education, add some more opportunities and support for our students, better support our staff, and do it without raising our portion of local property taxes through the Local Option Budget. This won't be easy, and will require us to keep a close eye on the checkbook.

You can't fix peer pressure.

But you can *give your kids the tools* to say no to alcohol.

Let them know they can talk to you about the pressure to drink. And teach them what to say when they face it.

Talk. *It Matters*. Advice at Itmattersks.com.

