

McLouth USD 342



Bulldog Bulletin

FEBRUARY 2012



Mrs. Thomas' 4th grade class uses the new "wireless lab" to conduct research.

USD 342 Mission Statement

Together, we learn in a community that promotes academic excellence, respect, lifelong learning, and responsible citizenship.

Superintendents Comments from Steve Splichal

2011-2012

Board of Education

*Andy Sullivan, President
Kristi Carlton, Vice
President
Heather Coit, Member
Ed Courtney, Member
Jessica Folsom, Member
Nathan Jolley, Member
Dean Wolfe, Member*

**Board of Education
February 13, 2012
Meeting will be
held at
7:00 pm
in the School Library**

Students at McLouth High School and McLouth Middle School have the opportunity to participate in various athletic and academic activities. The students who make this choice must figure out how to juggle their responsibilities in the classroom, on the court or field as well as home. This can be a significant challenge for some students.

I am very proud of the level of achievement that our students have demonstrated for the first semester of this school year. Our students have accepted the responsibility not only to their school work, but their team mates as well. The students at McLouth High School have been recognized by the Kansas State High School Activities Association with Distinguished Certificates of Achievement. This award is given to those teams who collectively earn a 3.25 to 4.00 grade point average as a team. The list of teams/groups that have worked to earn this distinction are:

Cheerleading/Spirit Squad, Cross Country (Girls), Drill/Dance Teams, Cross Country (Boys), Football, Music (Band), Music (Vocal), Student Council, Volleyball

All together, 189 students participated in the above mentioned groups throughout the fall semester. They earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.65. Our students are deserving of this

award and understand the balance of effort both in the classroom and on the court/field.

Student athletes at McLouth Middle School have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.15 for the fall semester. They have also worked hard to manage the requirements of the classroom and competition. Students who have participated in Cheerleading and Football will be earning Outstanding Certificates from the Kansas State High School Activities Association. These are awarded to teams that collectively earn a 3.00 to 3.24 cumulative grade point average.

The board of education will be conducting a facility tour and special board meeting on March 2nd 2012. The purpose of the tour is to allow board members to see a snapshot of the district's operations during a normal school day. The board will then make decisions regarding the priorities of their three year capital improvement's plan.

The district is in the process of reviewing a possible textbook adoption. Based on input from staff, the Language Arts materials currently in use in the district are the materials most urgently in need of updates. Teachers are working through sample materials to determine those instructional materials that best meet the curricular demands that we have in place. Once a final determination has been made, a recommendation will be made to the board of education for

final consideration.

It is hard to imagine that we are already into February. There are a couple important reminders for parents. First, even though we are getting closer to spring, there is still time for students to be sick with the normal cold season illnesses. Please make sure that your student is getting enough rest at home. We often hear that some students have TV's and other electronics in their rooms and at night do not get enough rest as a result. We are also on the verge of another testing cycle. This is a time when students may feel additional strain/stress to perform well on the test. Please remember that a good evening routine is important even for older students.

Finally, the Kansas Legislature is in full swing. There have been several bills introduced that have the potential to impact schools in Kansas. Rep. Ramon Gonzalez serves the constituents of Jefferson County in the House and Sen. Tom Holland represents the constituents of Jefferson County in the Senate. I have placed their contact information below for you:

Rep. Ramon Gonzalez; Room : DSOB; phone: 785-296-7677; email: ramon.gonzalezjr@house.ks.gov

Sen. Tom Holland; Room 134-E; phone: 785-296-7372; email: Tom.Holland@senate.ks.gov

January 9th BOE Unofficial Highlights

Board goals were discussed.

2012-13 School Calendar Options were reviewed and discussed.

Cooperative Agreement with Oskaloosa USD #341 was reviewed and discussed.

The board will hold a facility tour and special board meeting on March 2, 2012.

Driver Ed Program for Summer 2012 was approved by the board. Students currently attending McLouth Schools will be charged \$165 and for students not currently attending McLouth schools will be charged \$225.

The board adopted all the District Policies that were presented with the changes.

Mr. Courtney updated the board

on Keystone activities.

The board extended Mr. Splichal's and Mr. Dodge's contract for 1 year.

The board gave Mr. Splichal permission to advertise for the secondary counselor and secondary principal positions.

Community Daycare was discussed.

Elementary News from Mr. Dodge, Principal

In the past, we've talked about the importance of setting up good routines to start the school day. Eating a good breakfast after a restful night's sleep is a great way to start the school day. In addition, I would like to extend our thanks, as our tardies have gone down this semester. Setting after school routines are also helpful for student success. When your child comes home, have him/ her eat a quick snack and start their homework. This will help your child make the grade in the classroom.

While on the topic of homework, here are a few suggestions to help make this practice more effective. Start by establishing a clean

and designated work space. Nobody can concentrate when working on piles. Review the homework with your child. Don't just take their word for it that the work has been completed. By reviewing their work, your son/daughter will see the importance, based on your interest. Finally, don't stress over concepts or skills that are overly difficult for your child. Make a note for the teacher so the content can be reviewed at school. The homework experience should be a time for positive practice and application, not the setting for nightmares.

Choices. Who doesn't like to have choices? By having the opportunity

to choose, we take ownership of, and display some control over, life situations. When your child starts to challenge adults regarding the following of directions, meeting expectations, or even following through with responsibilities, consider giving them choices. This does come with a caveat – make sure the choices are ones you can live with. For example, if the choice is regarding a consequence for a behavior, make sure your child is the one doing the time, not you. ☺ While this approach may not work for everyone, for those who desire the opportunity to have a choice, it works very well.

MMS/MHS News from Mr. Bogard, Principal

The new semester is off to a great start. Our activities schedule is full and our students and instructors will be busy preparing for the state assessments. The assessments will be many. All the 6th-8th graders take the reading and math assessments, with the 7th grade taking one in science and the 6th and 8th graders taking one in social studies. All the tenth graders will take the reading assessments with those

enrolled in Algebra II taking the math test. The juniors take the science and social studies tests. The testing will begin in March.

The McLouth Invitational Basketball Tournament was held the week of January 16th. I heard many complimentary remarks from visitors regarding our school and the tournament. I would like to thank Mr. Schroeder and his workers on a job

well done. As always I encourage you to support our students in our activities at the middle/high schools.

Please consider making a donation to the Bulldog Strength and Conditioning Facility. We are almost at our goal. Any contribution is greatly appreciated. You can contact the schools at www.mclouth.org for school announcements and the latest news.

College Goal Sunday

February 12, 2012, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
University of Kansas
J.R. Person Hall
Room 102, 1122 W. Campus Road
Lawrence, KS

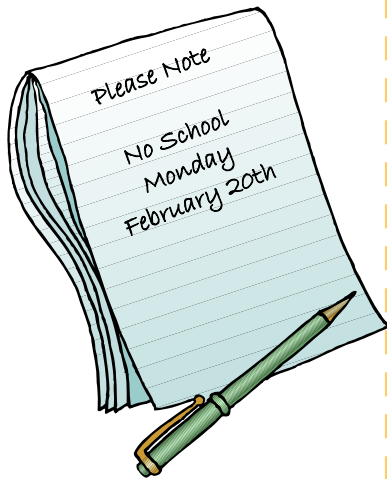
Need money for college or vocational school next year? It only takes about 30 minutes with a financial aid volunteer, fill out the FAFSA form and learn what types of financial aid are available. Bring

your 2011 tax returns, W-2 and your PIN numbers for parents and students. If you have not done your taxes bring you 2010 tax information. There will be a drawing for a \$500 scholarship at the conclusion of the event.

**MCLOUTH USD 342
DISTRICT NEWSLETTER**

217 Summit St
McLouth, KS 66054
Phone 913/796-2201
Fax 913/796-6440

Email: browns@mclouth.org
Submission Deadline is the
15th of each month.



SCHOOL CLOSING

School closures due to inclement weather will be announced on the following media.

School Reach District Website
Lawrence Journal World

TV Stations:

WIBW Topeka - Channel 13
KSNT Topeka - Channel 27
KTKA Topeka - Channel 49
KTMJ - Topeka - Fox Channel 43
KCTV - Kansas City - Channel 5
KMBC - Kansas City - Channel 9
WDAF - Kansas City - Fox Channel 4
Lawrence Channel 6

Radio:

94.5 FM 580 AM
93.7 FM 1470 AM
106 FM 1320 AM

February Home Events

- February 2 - MSBB w/Everest @ 5 pm
- February 6 - MSBB w/Troy Parents Night @ 5 pm
- February 14 - HSBB w/ACCHS @ 5 pm
- February 16 - MSBB w/Valley Falls @ 5 pm
- February 21 - HSBB w/ Maur Hill Mt Accademy @ 5 pm
- February 24 - HSBB w/Valley Falls @ 5pm
Senior Night



SUPPORT THE BULLDOGS

KSHSAA Scholastic Awards First Semester

High School

Distinguished

(3.25 to 4.0 GPA collectively as a team)

Cross Country Girls 4.02, Dance Team 3.81, Cheerleaders 3.78, Student Council 3.75, Volleyball 3.70, Band 3.57, Cross Country Boys 3.46, Football 3.42, Choir 3.34

Middle School

Distinguished

(3.25 to 4.0 GPA collectively as a team)

Band 3.41, Volleyball 3.37, Choir 3.32

Outstanding

(3.00 to 3.24 GPA collectively as a team)

Cheerleaders 3.18, Football 3.11