

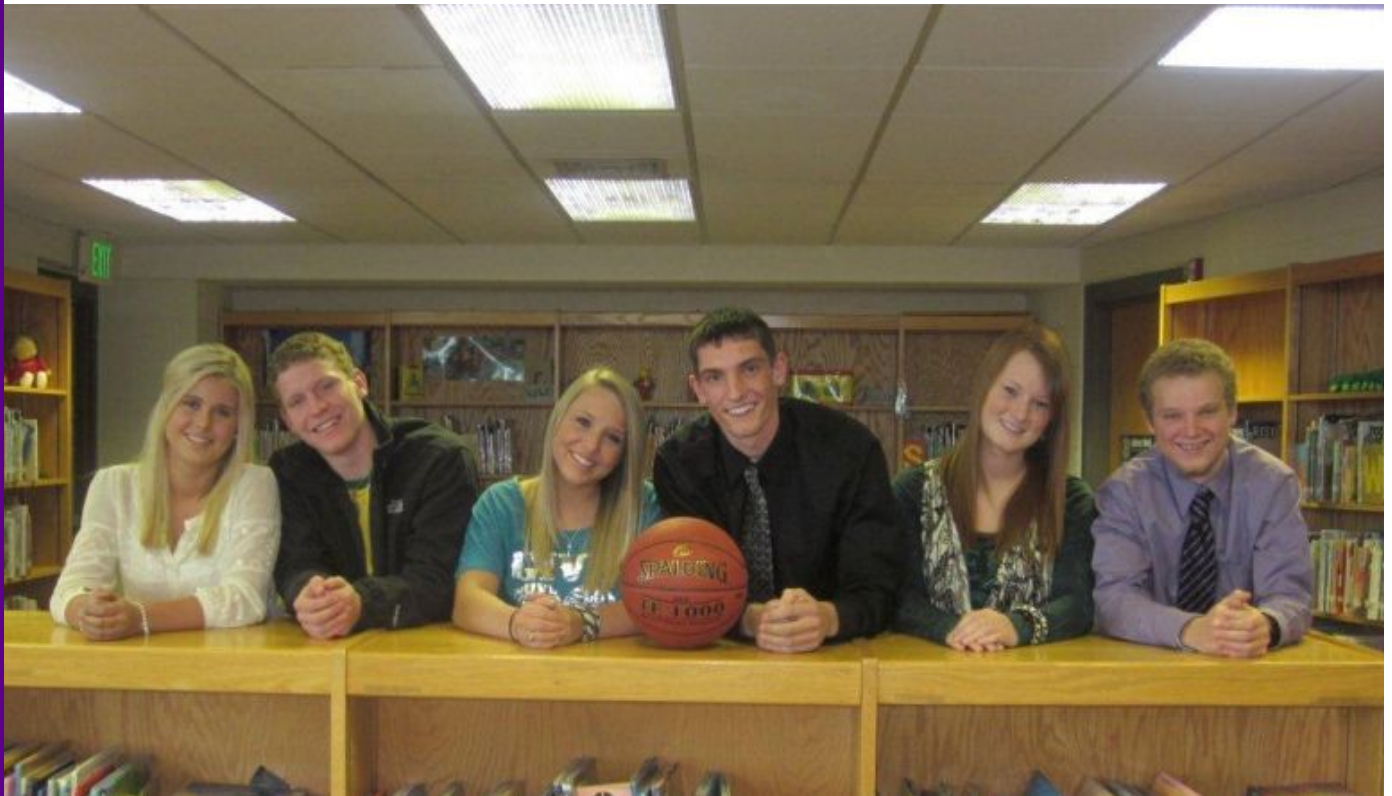
McLouth USD 342



Bulldog Bulletin

MMS / MHS NEWS FROM

JANUARY 2012



The King & Queen of Courts candidates for 2012 are (pictured left to right): Rakel Jensen, Shawn Dailey, Cheyenne Wisdom, Gavin Swearngin, Ally Bristol, and Calvin Booth. Come support the bulldogs as they take on the Doniphan West Mustangs. Crowning will be at halftime during the boys varsity game.

USD 342 Mission Statement

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

**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
January 9, 2012
Meeting will be
held at
7:00 pm
in the School Library

Superintendents Comments from Steve Splichal

I hope that each of you had a safe and joyous holiday. It is a great time to connect with family and friends as well as “recharge” for the new year. The hardest part of the end of a long break is getting out of bed that first morning. We often stay up a little later and sleep in a little longer and thus “reset” our internal clocks. It will take some time to return our clocks to the “school” setting.

The spring semester is a very busy time for students and staff. We are counting down to spring assessments for students in grades 3rd-8th as well as our high school students. We also have large groups of students participating in various activities ranging from basketball to scholars bowl. It can be a stressful time especially given that the weather is traditionally worse and that the cold and flu season kicks

in. I would like to encourage you to help your child develop/maintain healthy habits. It is very important for young people to get good sleep (generally 8-10 hours depending on their age) and eat right. I am sure that there were many nice electronic toys/games under Christmas trees. It is important for parents to monitor the time their child spends on games and balance that with physical activity. It would also be a great benefit to our students and staff if appointments could be scheduled outside of the school day. I know that this is not always possible given your schedule or the doctors, but any efforts to make those appointments later in the day or on days that we might be out of session would be very helpful.

I am certain that you have heard that Governor Brownback has proposed a new

school finance formula. The press releases have been distributed and individuals are now looking through the plan to determine what is in it and the impact on education. I encourage you to take a few moments to look through this proposal. As it stands now, the plan will not take affect until the 2013-14 school year. It will most certainly have an impact on how schools are able to educate students and meet the demands set forth by state and federal legislation. The McLouth School District has weathered considerable cuts (like other school districts) in recent years. It would be good to see a funding formula that consistently generates money for school districts without placing all of the responsibility on local property taxes. The investment that we make in our youth today will certainly pay dividends tomorrow.

BOE December Unofficial Highlights

Dec. 12, 2012 Unofficial Highlights

Ms. Rathbun, Ms. Noll and students showed how they are using the Smartboard in their classrooms. Mrs. Holwick and students discussed how they are using Kindles and technology in their classroom.

The board discussed the KLN Report.

Board policies were reviewed and approved as presented by the board.

The 2012-2013 School Calendar options were reviewed by the board.

KSDE Fiscal Audit findings were reviewed.

Casey Grady was hired by the board as a Social Studies teacher.

The board approved the audit contract with Kramer and Associates.

Elementary News from Mr. Dodge, Principal

Well, the first semester has come and gone. I can hardly believe we are already moving forward with 2012. Very soon, we will be entering the process of taking the Kansas State Assessments in reading and math, for grades 3-5. 4th grade will also be taking the science state assessment. As we work to provide your students with the best instruction possible, we will use these assessments to further determine the needs of our students.

Congratulations to Ben Posch, a 4th grader in Mrs. Thomas' class. He is the McLouth Elementary Spelling Bee Champion for the 2011-12 school year. The winning word was "turkey." There were 12 students competing for the elementary title. Our runner-up is Calvin Haverkamp from Mrs. Holwick's 5th grade class. We are very proud of all of our students, as each class in grades 3-5 competed for the opportunity to move on to the school

-wide bee. Ben will compete in the Jefferson County Bee in early 2012.

As we move forward with 2012, I want to extend to everyone a Happy New Year! I am eagerly looking forward to the experiences and challenges that await. During our morning announcements each day, our students proclaim that it is "a great day to be a bulldog." I will take that sentiment one step further and say that it is "a great year to be a bulldog!"

Christmas Bulldog Reading Store

Once again, the Christmas Bulldog Reading Store was a huge success due to everyone involved! The students were able to purchase gifts for their families using their AR points. Many students left the store with wide smiles and many big and heavy bags.

The Christmas Store is made possible due to the generous patrons, parents, businesses, and organizations. It doesn't make any difference if it is a small item, a big item, one item, several items, or money; every single donation helps make the store possible and helps the students learn a lesson about the act of giving. A BIG THANK YOU goes to all who donated items for the Christmas Bulldog Reading Store.

As in the past, Anne Ping did a beautiful job on the sacks. The beautifully decorated sacks seem to just add that perfect touch to make it a magical Christmas season. Mrs. Ping has already asked for sacks for next year. That tells us how much time and dedication goes into the decorated sacks. Thank you Mrs. Ping.

It would not be possible to run the store without the help of the volunteers. These volunteers help the students shop for their family members as well as wrap the many gifts that the students purchase. These volunteers took time out of their busy schedule to help our students. There were also a few people that stopped in to help when they had a little free time at school. We ap-

preciate them working us into their busy schedule.

I would like to thank Mrs. Rainey for all her hard work before, during and after the store. Every year she has diligently scheduled the volunteers, set up the wrapping tables, and made sure we had everything that is needed to help the two days of wrapping easier. A BIG THANK YOU GOES OUT TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS.

I would like to mention something about the bull pup shirts.

If any of your family were lucky enough to have received a bull pup shirt, those shirts were donated by James David. Thank you for having those printed up for the store Mr. David. They were a big hit!

Movie Night

On December 17th, the elementary staff and elementary student council held a free movie night for families. The elementary student council sponsored a concession stand. A *Dennis the Menace Christmas* was enjoyed by all.

Thank you to the student council helpers: Madison Pope, Kimi Patterson, George Stean, and Ben Posch for helping out.

Thank you to Ms. Terry, Mrs. Martin, and Mr. Dodge for all your help

and support. We could not have done it without you.

Thank you to Robert Walker and Barbara Reliford for setting up and cleaning up.

**McLOUTH USD 342
DISTRICT NEWSLETTER**

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

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

Cow for a Cause

A Cow for a Cause? Now what is this all about? Two entities came together to help make the Christmas season brighter for a few families. An anonymous donor donated a cow to be butchered and the Winchester Meat Processing Plant donated their time to process the meat. The result? A few families were surprised with some meat for the holiday season. What a holiday treat!!

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

MMS/MHS News from Mr. Bogard, Principal

Let me take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and successful new year. McLouth Middle and High Schools had a successful first semester and we are looking forward to the second half of the school year. During the spring semester our students will be administered the Kansas State Assessments. Last year we showed continued gains with both schools

receiving a Standard of Excellence designation from the Kansas State Department of Education for the fourth year in a row. We hope to continue this trend.

The winter months are full of student activities and as always I encourage you to attend. Parents can continue to access PowerSchool to stay abreast of school schedules and announcements. Please

access the district's website at www.mclouth.org as well. Parents of seniors, please note the counselor's corner tab as well as the daily announcements, posted on the site, for information concerning the final months of your students' public school experience. Please feel free to contact the school at 913-796-6122 with any questions or concerns. Have a great year.

NHS Senior Citizen Luncheon



Each year, members of the McLouth National Honor Society host a Senior Citizens luncheon for the seniors in the McLouth community. This event is held in the McLouth library. There was a variety of homemade soups, breads, and desserts. They concluded their luncheon by holding a drawing for Poinsettias.

January Home Events - Come Out and Support the Bulldogs



Jan 3 - HSBB w/Oskaloosa @ 5pm

Jan 9 - MSBB w/Pleasant Ridge @ 5pm

Jan 12 - MSBB w/Jackson Heights @ 5pm

Jan 13 - HSBB w/Doniphan West @ 5 pm

King and Queen of Courts

Jan 17, 20, 21 - HSBB McLouth Invitational Tournament

Jan 19 - MSBB w/JCN @ 5pm

Jan 23 MSBB w/Bishop Seabury @ 5 pm

Jan 30 - MSBB w/ACCMS @ 4:30 pm