



THE BULLDOG BULLETIN

McLouth USD 342 District Newsletter

SPRING ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



Police Chief Koch and Officer Johnson visit with students in the McLouth School District.

The Bulldog Bulletin

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May 2009

Special points of interest:

- Elementary Assessment information, page 3
- Blues Orchestra...final concert of the season. Thank you Mr. Brandel.
- Sports schedule, back cover

There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children:
One of these is roots, the other is wings.

--Hodding Carter



USD 342 Mission Statement

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

STAFF HIGHLIGHT



Ms. McConkey teaches fourth grade for the McLouth School District. In addition, she is the high school assistant cheer sponsor. Ms. McConkey has taught in the McLouth district since 2004.

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT



Dalton is a second grader at McLouth Elementary School. He enjoys playing with his brother and being outside. Dalton...we're glad that you're at the McLouth School District!

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS



The State Budget and USD 342

Recently, the declining US economy has made a dramatic impact on the State of Kansas revenues. It is the legislature's responsibility to allocate funds for K-12 school, based upon the money received through taxes. We are currently in the process of preparing the budget for the 2009-2010 school year and the current indicators are we will have significantly less funds. This will require very difficult decisions on the part of the board and staff.

What can be expected?

1. The administration and staff will focus on our students. We will provide them with the best educational opportunities with the dollars available.
2. Every effort will be made to preserve as many programs and manageable class sizes.
3. The Board of Education and administration will examine multiple options for reductions and revenue generating. Any increases in fees or assessments will be communicated as soon as possible.

Our goal is to provide the children of the McLouth school district with a quality education that prepares them for the future. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the central office (913)796-2201 or by email at rushj@mclouth.org

Please provide the school office with current student contact information. In case of a school emergency, parents can be notified via the telephone with the School Reach system.

Tell Us What You Think...

What you want us to know – comment or concern: _____

What attempts have you made to resolve the situation? _____

Response Requested: Name _____
Please call me at _____ Address _____

Please respond to me by letter.

From Mr. Batman, Principal ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

I attended a workshop in Salina last week and here are some of the ideas being presented to help improve our children's learning.

K-3 is the most critical time for kids in education.

General Colin Powell stated that students do not drop out of school at the high school level; they start dropping out of school in kindergarten, first and second grades.

He further noted that most of our students today need much more lap-top time; he was not speaking about computers.

Internalizing General Powell's message we need to do more to help people understand the importance of certain behaviors in rearing children.

Children will not automatically learn a language unless they have adults who speak to them, not at them, on a regular basis.

They will not develop a love

of reading unless adults are reading to them almost every-day.

They will not enter kindergarten able to listen, mind and follow directions unless they are taught those skills in the home.

Nothing can replace the quality time building a nurturing relationship with a child.

A workshop on "How Boys Learn":

Should we teach boys differently than girls?

Year after year, boys outnumber girls in public school-until high school: 43% of college students are men; 54% of middle school and high school dropouts in Wichita last year were boys; 66% of special ed. students are boys; 71% of suspensions from school are boys; 92% of discipline referrals in a KS high school were boys and 95% of juvenile homicides are committed by boys.

Boys are more likely to tease other boys who embrace academics.

Later starting date for boys in kindergarten: it is said teaching a 5 year old boy to read is like teaching a 3 and half year old girl to read.

Pre-school is huge for boys.

Girls ask for help: boys often just act for help.

Language and expression are two weak areas for boy thus written language, express themselves verbally and enjoy reading. Ask a boy how was school and you get a grunt or ok . Ask a girl and you may sit and listen for 10 minutes or more.

BOYS WHO ACT LIKE THEY DON'T CARE, THEY REALLY DO WANT TO BE INCLUDED AND SUCCESSFUL.



DATES TO REMEMBER

05/08 Donuts for Dad
05/11 DIBLES Testing
05/13 Field Day
05/14 Family Fitness, Food, & Fun Night
05/15 Cook Out/Crazy Dress Day
05/20 Field Day/Rain Date
05/22 5th Grade Eats Lunch with Middle School
05/29 Elementary Awards @ 8:45am
05/29 Last Day of School/1:35 Dismissal

A New Look For the Bulldog Store

The spring Bulldog Store will be a little different this year. Instead of only a store there will be stations the students can choose to go to and spend their AR points. Some of the possible stations will be:

- * Popcorn ball toss
- * Build an ice cream sundae
- * General store
- * Numerous craft projects
- * Purchase a slice of pizza
- * Coke floats

The general store will have numerous items students can purchase. Donations are still accepted so items can be purchased such as pizza, ice cream, ice cream toppings, crafts, etc.

McLouth Students Celebrate Earth Day 2009



Ms. Bradford's 3rd grade class celebrated earth day by going to the park and cleaning up trash. You would be surprised at what they found and where they found it. It was a wonderful eye opener for everyone.

Thank you for your hard work 3rd grade!

**From Mr. Bogard, MHS/MMS
Principal
High School 913-796-6122**

**Notes from the A.D.
Tom Pierce, Activities**

Patrons of USD #342,

It's hard to believe the school year is coming to a close at the end of this month. We just finished the Kansas State Science Assessments. Both the middle school and high school did well on the reading and math assessments. Congratulations to the students and staff on all their hard work. There are a number of culminating events this month and I encourage you to check out the district's web-site at www.mclouth.org for sched-

ules.

The graduation exercises for high school is on Saturday May 16th at 10:00 AM. The 8th grade promotion is May 26th at 7:00 PM. The final day of classes is May 29th. Credit recovery classes will begin on June 1st. There will be a \$100.00 fee for each class a student is enrolled in. Contact the counseling office at 796-6122 for more information. Enjoy your summers.

Mike Bogard, principal

Spring time in Kansas is a real adventure for the athletic directors trying to schedule and reschedule the sporting events that are affected by the weather. Several of our baseball/softball games have been rescheduled along with a high school track meet. The baseball double-header with Atchison County will not be rescheduled due to conflicts. The student athlete's safety is our highest concern when deciding whether to go ahead with an activity. Decisions made are not always popular with everyone but you can be assured that we are doing what we think is best for the student athlete and the team.

Kansas City Kansas Community College. Good luck!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

McLouth MS will be hosting the Delaware Valley League Track Meet on Saturday, May 9. We are looking for people that would be willing to help us run off the many events that are involved. Please call Mr. Pierce at the high school if you would be interested and available.

Summer Camps: The high school coaches will be soon sending out information on their team camps and also their youth camps. Please look for these flyers.

**Congratulations!
MMS Knowledge Bowl Team**

Congrats to the MMS Knowledge Bowl Teams! The 7th grade team of John Courtney, Sarah Evans, Charlie Houk, Steven Heath, Konner Paterson, Kit Rice and Danae Williams placed 4th out of eleven teams at the MS DVL meet. The 8th grade team of Nick Barnett, Jamie Cain, Katie Gann, Kaitlyn Hullinger, Olivia Taylor-Puckett, and Josh Swanson placed 2nd at the DVL meet.

Congratulations to the following students for receiving basketball awards: Missy Rome – DVL All-League 1st Team, Cole Batman – DVL All-League 1st Team. Kylie Shufflebarger was selected DVL Honorable Mention.

Our spring high school athletes are preparing hard for the post season competition that is fast approaching. Come and support the Bulldogs as they work there way towards state.

The regional music festival for solos and small ensembles was cancelled due to the weather, so those students qualified for the state festival on April 25th. The large group band and choir festival was held on Thursday, April 16. Results not available at this time.

The DVL track meet will be held at Highland Community College on May 14th. The regional track meet will be hosted by Riley County on May 22nd.

**Kansas State
Scholars and Curriculum Completers**

The Kansas Board of Regents designates Kansas State Scholars from students who have completed all the required courses for the Qualified Admissions Curriculum. Only 2,200 seniors in the state of Kansas are State Scholars, 7 percent of all graduating seniors. To be a State Scholar, a student must score well on the ACT test, have an excellent grade point average and complete the Qualified Admissions Curriculum. The Average GPA of 3.89. The McLouth High School State Scholars are: Jarrod Bechard, Amanda Friesz, Gelia Gardner and Lezley Lawson.

The high school forensics team has competed very well this spring. Besides the league runner-up, they were winners of the Horton meet and runner-up at the Atchison County meet. There are thirteen students that will be competing at the state festival at

The softball regional tournament will be hosted by Silver Lake on May 18th and 19th.

The baseball regional tournament will be hosted by Wathena on May 18th and 20th.

Seventeen McLouth High School seniors were designated as Kansas Scholars Curriculum Completers which is 45 percent of the MHS graduating class. The state average for Kansas Scholars Curriculum Completers 21 percent of the graduating class. The 2009 McLouth High School Kansas Scholars Curriculum Completers are: Brandy Alterman, Journey Barber, Jarrod Bechard, Megan Case, Derrick Crouse, Amanda Friesz, Gelia Gardner, Vinny Gonzales, Chris Heath, Lisa Hixon, Haley Holwick, Courtney Kasl, Dagny Keyes, Cody Lash, Lezley Lawson, Kendall Patterson and Brooke Thompson.



May Dates to Remember

- 05/12 - NHS Induction - 6pm
- 05/12 - Sr. Awards Night - 7:30pm
- 05/16 - HS Graduation 10 am
- 05/25 - No School
- 05/26 - MS Promotion 7pm
- 05/29 - Last Day Of School—1:35 pm

For more activity dates visit www.mclouth.org

District Office Info.
Jean Rush, Superintendent
217 Summit
913/796-2201

2008-09 USD #342 Board of Education



Pictured left to right, top row to bottom: Dan Evans, Mike Tullis, Doug Walbridge, Andy Sullivan, Mitchel Campbell, Leah Bristol, Ed Courtney

2008-2009BOE Members

Mitchel Campbell, Pres.

Doug Walbridge, Vice-Pres.

Leah Bristol, Member

Ed Courtney, Member

Dan Evans, Member

Andy Sullivan, Member

Mike Tullis, Member

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

MARCH BOE OFFICIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Official Minutes from March 9, 2009:

The board approved the consent agenda including the approval of minutes and the treasurer's report; authorized payment of bills and approved the resignation of Ms. Stefani Loflin-secondary math teacher.

Recognitions: The board recognized Mr. Aaron Polson and the forensics state qualifiers for their successes. Also recognized Mr. Keith (Skeeter) Kingsolver for his success in the PBR.

Miss Parker was recognized as the recipient of the Elementary Above and Beyond Award. Ms. Vangemeren was recognized as the recipient of the Secondary Above and Beyond Award.

Communications: The bus barn wireless connection was discussed. Mr. Batman handed out a survey that Mrs. Vickie Feuerborn will be distributing during conferences and handed out a spreadsheet from the secre-

tary of time spent on nursing duties. Mr. Pierce reported on the success of the forensics team, reported on spring sports numbers and requested a third coach for the softball program. Mrs. Rush commented on the importance of the academic coaches to the success of the assessments; informed the board that she had added the mission statement to each page of their packet to keep everyone focused on the mission; discussed curriculum mapping; informed the board that driver education reimbursement was reinstated; reminded the board about negotiation training on March 26th and informed the board about teacher recruitment.

Student Learning and Support Services – Information Only: Mr. Holwick, Mr. Watson and Mr. Weeks visited with the board about the construction of a new community building. Capital City Oil representatives discussed fuel capabilities with the board. The board discussed School Make-up Proposals. The board approved to provide an amount not to exceed \$1500 for the matching funds

on the Kansas City Royals Grant for improvements at the ball fields. The 2009-2010 School Calendar was approved as presented. 2009-2010 Budget was discussed. Mr. Thomas discussed the technology plan with the board.

Student Learning and Support Services – Action Items: The board accepted the district's audit as submitted. The board approved the USD 342 Transportation Handbook appendix as presented with the changes discussed in the February meeting. The entrepreneurship class field trip to Minnesota was approved.

Complete official board minutes are posted on the district website @ www.mclouth.org

BOE MAY AGENDA

USD 342 Board of Education will hold its regular monthly meeting on the second Monday. This is an open meeting and the public is invited to attend. It will be held in the school district library and begins at 7:00 pm.

If you would like to address the board, please contact the district office to complete the request form.

The May agenda will include, but not be limited to the following items:

1. 2009-10 Budget Report
2. Summer School Fees
3. Auditor Recommendation
4. Recreation Commission Request

School Calendar:

Current information is found on the website.

2009-2010 School Calendar

Current info found on Website



COULD IT BE THAT TIME? SENIOR CLASS PARTY 2009

Help us celebrate 20 years of keeping our Seniors Safe.

May 16, 2009

(evening of graduation)

MHS Purple Gym

10:00 pm–2:00 am

Dear community business leaders, organizations, senior parents and friends,

This event can only be done by your generous monetary donations. We hope you can help us out once again. Due to the struggling economy we will just be concentrating on providing entertainment, food and some grand prizes. Monetary donations are needed to supply this event. Please feel free to drop your donation off in the HS office marked Senior Party. If you have any questions, please call me at 796-6122.

Thank you for your support,
Annamaria Rainey

Family Fitness, Food and Fun Night

The elementary will be hosting a Family Fitness, Food and Fun Night. It will be held May 14th from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm in the purple gym.

There will be activities, food and fun for everyone. We will also have door prizes and drawings.

So get your comfortable clothes and shoes and come have some fun!

McLouth Community Park Update

The McLouth Recreation Commission is currently developing Rose Park. The park is named in honor of Rose Balao, a lifelong resident of McLouth, a charter member of the McLouth Recreation Commission and the former property owner of the park site. Rose was instrumental in establishment of our city library and also volunteered at the Jefferson County Historical Society. The 8.5 acre park will include a walking trail soccer field, a community center and a very nice playground.

We are currently constructing a playground that will be dedicated and named in the memory of Floyd "Bud" King. Bud served on the McLouth school board for sixteen years. King's Construction donated the "lightly used" playground equipment from Overland Park, KS . King's Construction gently removed this equipment bolt by bolt so that it could be reinstalled. The equipment includes four slides, swings, climbers and education stations. With plenty of hard work from the commission members and volunteers, the Bud King playground is nearing completion. We will have a formal dedication on Friday, June 26, 2009.

We are pleased and proud to have installed this play equipment in McLouth for the enjoyment of the children in our community. We believe this is one of the best playgrounds in Jefferson County with handicap accessibility. This is high quality equipment installed by community volunteers. Special thanks to those who volunteered their skills, equipment and exhausting labor to make this happen., It is a true testament to the wonderful spirit of giving that makes McLouth such a unique and wonderful community to be a part of.

COMMUNITY NEWS

USD 342 BOE approved a community section for the newsletter. Information about local events can be submitted to the district office on the 15th of each month. Information printed as "community news" does not necessarily reflect the view of the McLouth BOE and/or USD #342. The district reserves the right to edit, select, and/or reject submitted items.

18th Annual McLouth BBQ Blowout 2009

Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6
Prairie Park, McLouth, KS

Hedrick's Exotic Animal Petting Zoo and Camel Rides
Friday Night 6-10pm, Sat 9am-4pm

For information about the McLouth BBQ Blowout
Visit our website at www.mclouthbbq.com

Or

Contact:: Cliff Weeks (w) 913-796-6122 (h) 913-796-6330

or

Randy Watson 913-796-6351

HOMETOWN FOODS TAPES FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

As of February 28, 2009 we have collected register tapes which total \$407,913.98.

"Be Creative @ Your Library"

Summer Reading Program
2009

Registration begins June
4th
@ McLouth Public Library



NEW for 2009
Adult Reading Program
Stop by the Library for details.

*Please remember to get new library cards for yourself and your children. Everyone needs a NExpress library card to use the computers.

McLouth USD 342 District
Newsletter

Phone: 913/796-2201
Fax: 913/796-6440
E-mail: browns@mcclouth.org
Submission deadline is the 15th of each
month.

Check us out on the web @
www.mcclouth.org

Please Note

05/16 HS Graduation/10am
05/26 MS Promotion/7pm
05/29 Elem. Awards/8:45 am
05/29 Last Day/1:35 Dismissal

Support the Bulldogs

Please see calendar for HS/MS
Track Meets, Softball and Base-
ball Game times and locations

 **End of the Year
Check List**

- * Check backpacks and bedrooms for library books.
- * Pay for lost or damaged library books.
- * Pay outstanding lunch account balances. (Call the elementary office for this information.)
- * Check the lost and found in the lunch room. Anything left after the last day of school will be donated to goodwill.

A color copy of this newsletter is
posted at www.mcclouth.org

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2009



*Class of 2009
High School Graduation Ceremony
Saturday May 16, 2009
at 10:00 am
at the
Sports Complex*

(In case of inclement weather, ceremony will be held in the gymnasium)

*Middle School Promotion
Tuesday, May 26, 2009
at 7:00 pm
in the
Purple Gym*

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217 Summit
McLouth, KS 66054

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