

The Wildcat Connection

Neosho R-5 School District

Volume 2: Issue 3

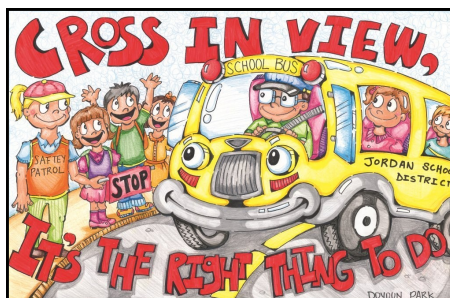
All About Safety

Safety was a popular topic of discussion during the month of October, all around the district. Fire safety and school bus safety, to be exact!

Elementary schools were visited by local firefighters to learn about what to do if there is a fire and the importance of being safe around fires. Some firefighters were dressed in full gear, fire truck alarms sounded, and water was sprayed through the fire hoses (not at the children, just across the parking lot!). Goodman students were even visited by Smokey the Bear!

National School Bus Safety Week was October 18th through the 22nd. The slogan this year was "Cross in view, it's the right thing to do!" Here is a note from Jacque Faulkner, Director of Transportation:

The Neosho R5 School District covers approximately 225 square miles. There are nine campuses in the District. The Transportation Department runs 38



regular, three double and three special needs routes throughout the district each morning and again each afternoon. One bus travels to and from Joplin for special classes, and two buses run in the middle of the day for Early Childhood students who attend only a half-day of classes. Votech students are transported to and from Crowder College twice daily, and students are delivered to and from work assignments in the community all day long each day. A shuttle for Enrichment students runs four days a week, and two buses transport students between campuses to the After School

Programs each evening. Buses are assigned for the transportation of students to and from athletic events, Speech and Debate contests, ROTC programs, musical events and many other activities throughout the week and on most weekends. All of this activity requires approximately 50 drivers each morning and again each afternoon. A number of additional drivers run each day on the special assignments. An average of 2600 students are transported on these buses twice each scheduled school day. All elementary students receive school bus safety training each year.

Three mechanics and two office personnel are busy each day coordinating all the activities of the Department and making sure the buses are fueled and mechanically sound. Transporting the students safely is our greatest priority! This doesn't happen without a great deal of preparation.

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Spotlight on Character: Responsibility

Responsibility: making good decisions about what you do and say while taking care of yourself and fulfilling your obligations.

A responsible person:

- Completes homework on time.
- Thinks before they act (Self-Control).
- Makes commitments and sticks with them.
- Perseveres even when things do not

go as planned.

- Works hard and does not try to pawn their work on someone else.
- Sticks by you in times of adversity, showing their loyalty.
- Is a mature person.
- Shows they are a person with good character!

"Responsibility is the price of greatness."

- Winston Churchill



Willie the Wildcat Fun

As most of you saw, Willie the Wildcat got loose at the beginning of October! He roamed the school district streets for a couple weeks, his whereabouts were announced on our Facebook page daily, and pictures of him with students and staff members were posted. It was fun getting out in the public and seeing the students interact with our ten-inch stuffed friend! The point of this contest was to increase the amount of community members adding Neosho Schools as a friend on Facebook. Within the two-week time period he was "missing", we went from having 303 friends, to having 434 friends! I think that was a fairly good turn out! More people still add us every day, which is a great way for our school district to connect with the community. We are proud of what we do here at the Neosho School District, and want the parents, family members, and friends of our students, as well as the general public, to share in that school pride!

Willie's final stop was in Doretta Fox's pocket! His little head poking out of the pocket, just waiting to be discovered by a lucky community member. Doretta, of course, was down in the middle school "Wildcat Krazies" section at the last home Varsity football game of this year, against the Kickapoo Chiefs. "The students were all asking if they could win, but I told them that I think it was for parents/adults," says Mrs. Fox. She said that Aaron Crum, father to one of the middle school students, was standing down with the Krazies, and his son pointed to Willie! So, Mr. Crum became our winner of the first ever "Find Willie the Wildcat" Facebook contest! He was very happy when he saw the huge basket full of Neosho gear and black & gold items! He even posted a picture of the basket on his Facebook page and bragged about how great it was!

My hope is that this creates more of a "buzz" for our school district, causing a continual increase in the amount of community support and school pride, as well as the amount of friends on our Facebook page! Thank you to all the community members that were involved, and all the teachers, staff members, and students that played along!



Human Interest Highlight: Middle School Heroes

The following story can be used to demonstrate almost all the character traits that Neosho School District students learn throughout each year. It's an amazing story, showcasing some of the amazing kids we have attending our schools. This story has been published in many places, and I am sure most of you know about it, but it's so great, I had to include it in this newsletter.

A couple of 7th graders at the Middle School, Dylan Millikin and Kenzie Bowers, began brainstorming ways they could help Gunner Gonzales, their fellow classmate, who was diagnosed with leukemia. They decided to hold a benefit car wash!

These brave students used Facebook to advertise the event, and 16 more friends immediately showed their care and got

involved! They walked around to businesses and asked for donations and created a flyer to promote the event. No set amount was given for a car wash, but they asked for whatever amount the individual(s) could donate. One donor even gave them \$100 without wanting their car washed!

From the benefit car wash, the students raised over \$800 for Gunner's traveling expenses, to and from hospitals. Another event held at the Middle School helped raise another couple hundred dollars for the family as well!

If you haven't checked it out yet, go to the Middle School's home page and you will see "The Jackson and Brant Morning Show" with links below it. Morning announcements are recorded and placed on their home page, available for public

listening. One morning announcement actually had Gunner on the other line, giving an interview while receiving chemotherapy! What an amazing kiddo!

Most of this information was supplied by the Neosho Daily News and mother of Dylan Millikin.



	<p>SMARTBoards in every classroom</p>		<p>Goodman Elementary Addition</p>	<p>Completed!</p>
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SWAEC At-Risk Programs

The Southwest Alternative Education Center has served at-risk students for 15 years. They currently serve 60 high school students in grades 9 through 12 from McDonald County and the Neosho R-5 School District. Two hundred plus graduates have earned credits through the SWAEC and received high school diplomas from their sending schools. This year, the SWAEC has diversified in an attempt to meet the needs of an increasing amount of students dropping out of high school.

Missouri Option is a program offered on the SWAEC campus to students who are 17 years of age and unable to earn enough credits to graduate with their cohort class. MO Op students are required to spend 15 hours in the classroom and 15 hours working per week, in order to meet the requirements. During their seat time, students undergo intense

instructional remediation in preparation to conquer the GED test. Once the student has passed the GED, their class time requirement ends but their work load must pick up to 30 hours per week. These students are now high school graduates and have the opportunity to walk with the current year's graduating class to grasp that once elusive high school diploma!

FLEX is now offered through the Southwest Alternative Education Center to all Neosho High School and SWAEC High School juniors and seniors. This program offers elective credits to students who are working and attending school at the same time, giving them the opportunity to support themselves and others while pursuing a high school diploma. We are addressing those at-risk students who get pulled out of high school due to the necessity to work.

The Transitional Learning Center (TLC) is housed on our campus and serves students who have been suspended from school for violations of school rules and/or policies. In the past, these students were sent home and not allowed to make up any work they missed while serving out-of-school suspension, causing them to get behind in credits needed to graduate. Addressing the correlation between absences and academic success, suspended students now have the opportunity to serve their suspensions in TLC with the ability to earn 100% of all class work completed while in attendance.

All four at-risk programs are served by a staff of six certified teachers, a secretary, and the director. All students have access to high quality teachers and support from a team that has genuine concern for every student's success, both in academics and character development.

Lowe's Heroes Donation

The Corporate office of Lowe's Home Improvement stores allow each of their stores to choose a local business or organization, for whom to donate a Lowe's Heroes Project! The Neosho Lowe's employees voted, this year, on completing a landscaping project for the Neosho School District!

If you have not seen already, there is a beautiful addition to the Neosho High School Bob Anderson Football Stadium! You should run by there some time and check it out! Bricks form the word

"Neosho" with a border around it! Each corner of the border has pretty flowers planted, as well as a patch of flowers above the addition! All material was donated by Lowe's and all labor was donated by Neosho Lowe's staff members!

Pictured from left to right are Julie Mettlach, Keri James, Bill O'Dennell, Ryan Phillips, Charlie Letts, and Jason Woods. Robbie Cline (not pictured) was also part of the team that chose our school!



All About Safety

We are extremely proud of the dedicated men and women who drive our buses! They are all trained, professional drivers who have passed a series of both general knowledge and skills tests. Each one is required to pass a yearly physical exam, random drug/alcohol testing and criminal background checks by the state and the FBI. They routinely attend safety training meetings and are governed by DOT regulations for school bus drivers.

The drivers go above and beyond the normal expectations almost daily and give much of their own time to the students who ride their buses.

The Neosho R5 School District Department of Transportation welcomes your questions, concerns and comments. If we can be of assistance to you or your student, please call the office at 451-8699. Please help us keep our students safe by stopping safely away from the school bus

when the stop arm is out and the red lights are flashing! Be "in view" of the driver and the students.



FIND US ON...



Facebook: Neosho Schools



Twitter: NeoshoR5SD



www.neoshopublicschools.net

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NEOSHO
Wildcats

For questions, comments, or story ideas, please contact Melissa Thomas, Public Relations/Information Specialist for the Neosho R-5 School District.
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"The mission of the Neosho R-5 School District, is to facilitate learning, to nurture individual potential, and to assist students to believe in themselves through successful learning experiences."



Show your school spirit!



School Board Snippet

Although our students and staff have been in class for several weeks now, "back to school" time for the members of the R-5 Board of Education, is October. Every October, board members attend the Missouri School Boards' Association Conference held in Osage Beach, Missouri.

The many sessions offered cover topics in Board Operations and Governance, Contemporary Issues in Education, Student Achievement, and School Law and Finance. Representatives from school districts across the state share best practices from their districts. During the conference, each R-5 board member separately selects several sessions to attend. Then, at the end of the conference, we share with each other the programs, procedures, or ideas that we believe are the most exciting or that would be of benefit to the Neosho R-5 School District. Our current Watch Dog Dads' Program is an example of a program that was initiated after a board member attended an MSBA conference and learned about this very successful plan to get dads involved as role models and helpers in our middle and elementary schools.

Your Neosho R-5 School Board Members believe that education is a life long pursuit, and so the October MSBA conference is a very exciting time for us to go "back to school" and continue learning about how to make our schools better.

Speaking of the School Board...

It is tradition for the Neosho R-5 School District Maintenance Department to donate and plant a Dogwood Tree for any school board member that has recently left the board, full time. Recently, two Dogwoods were planted! Mr. Bruce Mahr served on the board for six years and chose to have his Dogwood planted at Central Elementary School, which is where his children attended! Mrs. Shirley Cummins served a total of about four years and chose to have her Dogwood tree planted in her yard! Both are beautiful and the Maintenance Department did a great job! Thank you Mr. Mahr and Mrs. Cummins for your service!

