

# Wellington High School Newsletter

March 2010  
Volume 1, Issue 4

Principal Dale Liston  
Assistant Principal Joe Jacobs



## Contents

Principal's News	1
Upcoming Events	1
Letter to Legislator	1
Topeka Tour	2
Ernie Barrett Night	2
Health Notes	3
Crusader Mentors	3
MTSS	4
Benefit of Conferences	5

## Upcoming Events

- ❖ March 5<sup>th</sup> - End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Nine Weeks
- ❖ March 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> - PT Conferences 4:10 to 7:30PM both nights (@ WHS)
- ❖ March 12<sup>th</sup> - NO SCHOOL - Conference Release Day
- ❖ March 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> - NO SCHOOL - Spring Break

## From the Desk of the Principal

I would like to discuss two very important items in this issue of the newsletter. The high school has begun testing required by the state of Kansas on February 17, 2010. The testing is part of No Child Left Behind, also referred to as AYP (Annual Yearly Progress). All sophomores will have to take the reading and math state assessment test. Juniors who did not meet the math standards as sophomores will have to re-take the math test. This year 81.3% must meet standards in reading and 76.4% must meet standards in math. A quick reminder that by 2014 all students, 100%, must meet standards in math and reading.

Students must meet the standards on these tests as it is a state and federal requirement. Secondly, if a student does not meet the state standard, it will affect their class schedules in the future. For example a student who does not make the standard in math, may have to take a math class that meets every day and/or take a class called math concepts in order to help prepare them for re-testing. Failure to meet the standard in reading may also result in a student having to take a reading intervention class.

I am sharing this information with our parents and guardians, in hopes that you will encourage your student to take the testing seriously and ask your student to give their very best effort. We, as a building, have met the state standards in both math and reading the past two years. We do, however, have too many of our students that have not met the standard, either in math, reading, or in some cases both. Your support and encouragement would be greatly appreciated and we thank you

for your continued concern for your student's success in high school.

The second item I would like to address is the financial crisis facing the educational system in the state of Kansas. The following quote from Winston Churchill "never before has there been so much to do and so little time to do it" expresses the financial situation that faces the state of Kansas. The future education of your children will definitely be affected by further spending cuts. Edmond Burke summarizes well when he says "all that is necessary for evil to triumph, is for good men to do nothing". Your children need you to contact your legislator and let them know how you feel about your child's education. Please do not become a part of the "silent majority." The decisions made in this session of the state legislature will have an enormous impact on the future of education in this state and the future of your children.

I am asking you to please contact your state legislator and share your opinions and thoughts on the funding of education in the state of Kansas. I have listed the names and how to contact Mr. Vince Wetta and Dr. Steve Abrams. Thanks again for all that you do to support quality education for the students in the Wellington Community. You are a wonderful community of which I am fortunate to be affiliated. Together we will make a difference.

Please feel free to use this letter as a guide when addressing your legislator: [Letter](#)

## AP History and Government Classes Tour Topeka



Shelby Shore, Eric Anders, Drew Hodson, Jake Gray,  
Cameron McCorkle, Curtis Defore, Hector Ortega,  
Matt Leverich, Michael Norem

Mike Wilmoth's AP History and Government students toured Topeka on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Expenses for the trip were covered with grant money secured by Mr. Wilmoth for that purpose.

The day began with a tour of the State Capital Building and a brief visit with Representative Vince Wetta. After lunch, the students were enlightened at the Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education Museum and then later the Kansas Museum of History. Fifty students made the trip and enjoyed the day's activities immensely. Thanks go to Mr. Wilmoth for making it all possible!

## Ernie Barrett Night at WHS

Friday, Feb. 12, 2010 was ERNIE BARRETT NIGHT at WHS. During the halftime of the boys' varsity game, Ernie and teammate Jerry Wilson, members of the 1947 WHS State Champion basketball team were honored by the crowd.

Posters commemorating the occasion were presented as folks reminisced about their great accomplishment 63 years ago this season.

After high school, Wilson went on to play at Wichita State University and returned to Wellington to teach and

coach. Barrett went on to play ball at Kansas State University, where he was an ALL AMERICAN and captained the "Cats to the 1951 NCAA Championship Game. In the East vs. West All Star game that followed at Madison Square Gardens, Ernie was named the MVP. The Boston Celtics drafted Ernie in the first round that year and he played for Red Auerbach for two years.

The 1947 State Basketball Championship is the only state championship in basketball for Wellington High School. It was great to see Ernie and Jerry at center court once again.

*"One can succeed  
at almost anything  
for which he has  
enthusiasm."  
--Charles Schwab*



Photo courtesy of  
Wellington Daily News

## Health Notes By Jane Norris, RN, School Nurse

**Winter cold & flu season** has been upon us since November! Free H1N1 Vaccinations were offered in cooperation with the SU. County Health Department at all USD 353 Schools in December. H1N1 vaccine administration is still available at the Health Dept.'s Offices, call 326-2774 for information.

**Completed & Upcoming Screenings** - Dr Erickson & Dr. Gill's Dental office conducted the Give Kids a Smile Free Dental Care Clinic on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>. There were 18 USD 353 Students who received free services ranging from cleanings to x-rays and fillings. A total of 28 Sumner County Kids from age 2-17 were seen & approximately \$20,000 in free services was provided.

Vision & Hearing Screenings for USD 353 Students are underway! Students in specific grades are screened each year, along with students who are new to USD 353. WHS 10<sup>th</sup> graders will be screened on 2/24 & 2/26. 12<sup>th</sup> grade students & New Students will be screened on 3/5. Dental Screenings - All students in USD 353 will have the opportunity to participate in a free dental screening at school. GraceMed, from Wichita, will be providing dental days at each school building during March & April. Permission forms for WHS students will be sent home on March 4<sup>th</sup>, due back to the HS on March 11<sup>th</sup>, with the dental day scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup>. Students

who do not return permission forms will not be screened on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Health Education Series** - Kansas Learning Center for Health, out of Halstead, has visited each of our Elementary Buildings & provided health education programs to each grade level Kg-5<sup>th</sup>. They will be presenting programs to the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade - You, Your Body & Puberty on 3/22; the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade - Human Growth and Development on 3/23; and to the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade in the morning and 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the afternoon - Life's A Gamble on 3/26. If you do not want your student to participate in the WHS presentation- send a written note to their PE/Health Teacher prior to the 26<sup>th</sup>. For more information about the Learning Center's outreach programs go to:

[www.learningcenter.org/outreach.shtml](http://www.learningcenter.org/outreach.shtml)

These programs were presented thru grant funds awarded to the Learning Center!

**Immunizations**- As second semester winds down, there will be notifications sent home to parents/guardians of students who need immunization updates. These may be handed out with grade cards at Parent/Teacher conferences or mailed home. If you receive a notice, instructions will be included as to which booster your student needs & when it is due to the school.

*“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it..”*

*--Marian Wright Edelman*

## Crusader Mentors Collaborate With Derby HS

The Crusader Mentoring Program (CMP) participated in a joint mentor training with Derby High School at Slate Creek Ranch earlier this month. This collaborative effort is an extension of a trip taken by the CMP to Derby HS last November. These two groups of mentors will observe each others programs and discuss ways to better meet the needs of students at both schools. Teachers from each program will also collaborate in an effort to

better support mentors and mentees. The CMP consists of 20 mentors who are assigned to 5 different classrooms during seminar. Each seminar classroom consists of 12 mentees and 4 mentors. The mentors teach the mentees responsibility as well as help with academic and social issues. This is the third year of the CMP and the freshmen failure rates have dropped since its inception.

Shelby Shore



*Mentors come together to receive training and share experiences.*

## WHS Implementing Interventions for All Students

*“I really believe it [MTSS] has the potential to change the face of education...”*

*--Alexa Posny  
Former Commissioner  
of Education*

A number of educational researchers have long advocated for a system of prevention and intervention for all students. In Kansas we refer to this systemic approach as the *Multi-Tier System of Supports* (MTSS). Simply put, MTSS is a continuum of increasingly intense, research-based interventions provided to students that helps them learn by responding to their academic and/or behavioral needs. It includes ongoing monitoring of the effectiveness of the interventions provided. The outcome is to ensure that each Kansas student achieves to high standards.

WHS is in year two, the implementation stage, of MTSS. More information on MTSS can be found at:

<http://www.kpirc.org/uploads/MTSSKS1.pdf>.

WHS Mission Statement: Our mission is to empower all students to become lifelong learners and productive citizens.

Our Core Beliefs are:

- ❖ Every child learns and achieves high academic and social

- ❖ Learning includes building healthy relationships among staff, students and peers.
- ❖ Every child will be provided effective and relentless teaching.
- ❖ Change is based on consistent and frequent monitoring to drive instruction.

Those leading the way for WHS with this effort are:

Dr. Glasgow, Asst. Superintendent  
Joe Jacobs, Asst. Principal  
Dale Liston, Principal  
Karen Fuchs, Counselor  
John Gifford, Counselor  
James Ginter, Science Teacher  
Leon Johnston, Math Teacher  
Rick Phelps, Social Studies Teacher  
Elizabeth Vaughn, Gifted Facilitator & School Improvement  
Caron Carlile, SPED Teacher  
Damien Hays, Spanish Teacher  
Barb Headley, English Teacher  
Rane Case, Business Teacher  
Amber McCorkle, Parent  
Kevin Hackerott, Math/Soc. St. Teacher

### From the Counselors

The next ACT at WHS will be on April 10th - registration deadline is March 5th. Register online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) or pick up a packet in the Guidance Center.

Enrollment for current 9th, 10th and 11th graders will be completed prior to Spring Break - parents be sure to visit with your students about this and they will have an enrollment sheet for you to sign and return to the Guidance Center.

### The Calendar

March 5<sup>th</sup> - End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Nine Weeks  
March 9<sup>th</sup> - College Rep from Baker University here to visit with interested JRS & SRS  
March 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> - PT Conferences 4:10 to 7:30PM both nights (@ WHS)  
March 12<sup>th</sup> - NO SCHOOL - Conference Release Day  
March 15<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> - NO SCHOOL - Spring Break  
April 17<sup>th</sup> - PROM  
May 13<sup>th</sup> - CLASS NIGHT @ 7PM (For Seniors)  
May 16<sup>th</sup> - 2010 GRADUATION @ Sellers

## The Benefits of Attending Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for March 9 & 11 at 4:10 to 7:30 in the commons area. Conference is a time for parents and teachers to share information, solve problems, and form a relationship that will help the student succeed. You don't need to wait for a special invitation though. You can request a meeting with your child's teacher to discuss academic progress at any time.

The teacher needs to hear from you and you need to hear from the teacher. You know more about your child than anyone at school. Talking with the teacher about your child will help pave the way for your student to do well in class and will help you understand what is being taught in the classroom.

Conferences are usually short and to the point. These tips will help you make the most of your time with your child's teacher.

Mark the questions that are most important to you, and add others. Take this to your conference.

### QUESTIONS FOR THE TEACHER

- Can you show me some of my child's work?
- Does my child finish assignments in class and turn in homework?
- Does my child join in class discussions?
- Are you pleased with my child's progress?
- What does my child do well? What is my child having a hard time with?
- Where can we go for help?
- How does my child behave in the classroom?
- Have there been changes recently that I should know about?

- How do you handle discipline?
- What are your expectations of my child?
- What tests will you give this year? How does my child need to prepare?
- Are any big projects coming up? How can I help my child?
- What are grades based on?
- What is the best way for us to stay in touch about my child's progress through the year?
- How many students are in this class?
- Do you use parent volunteers in the classroom?
- What suggestions do you have for me to get involved with school, and to help my child succeed?
- How is my child's culture reflected in the classroom learning time?

### THINGS TO TELL THE TEACHER

- How my child learns best.
- Any big changes in the family—a new home, new people in the home, death or divorce.
- Medical conditions that affect my child.
- What has helped my child learn successfully in the past.
- What my child enjoys about school and the classroom.
- What is most challenging for my child in this class.

### BEFORE THE CONFERENCE

- Find out your child's questions and concerns about school.
- Check progress reports and work your child has brought home.
- If you need a ride, childcare or a different time or day for the conference, the school can help. Call the school office and ask.

### AT THE CONFERENCE

- Let the teacher begin the meeting but be sure to ask the questions on your list before time runs out.
- Ask the teacher what your child should know and be able to do by the end of the school year. Make a plan for how you and the teacher will work with your child to reach those goals.
- Find out the best way (notes, phone calls, e-mail) and the best time to communicate with the teacher throughout the school year.

### AFTER THE CONFERENCE

- Talk with your child about what the teacher told you, especially the positive comments. Talk about learning goals and make a plan to reach them together.
- Follow up on the plan you made with your child and the teacher every few weeks.
- If your child is not doing well, set up a regular check-in schedule with the teacher to monitor progress.
- Make sure your child knows that school is important. Talk with your child every day about school, attend school events, offer to help from home, volunteer in the classroom.



**Wellington High School**  
1700 E. 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Wellington, KS 67152

**Phone:**  
(620) 326-4310

**Fax:**  
(620) 326-0145

**E-mail:**  
dliston@usd353.com