

WELLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2017, ISSUE 2



WHS students (pictured) served a spaghetti dinner this week as part of FFA Week. See pg. 3 for story.

A NEW DAY AND A NEW VISION FOR USD 353

During the February meeting, the USD 353 Board of Education approved a new vision statement for the district. The vision statement reads as follows: *USD 353 will be leaders of innovative, future focused learning by bringing schools, community, and students together to adapt to the changing world.* The new vision statement was seven months in the making and was developed by a group of district teachers and administrators representing each school. Beginning in August of

2016, the district solicited input on a new district direction through a survey given to staff, students, parents, and business and community members. Over 600 survey responses were collected and emergent themes included increased focus on technology integration, digital innovative learning tools, and a continued focus on partnerships with the community. In response to the new vision, the board recently approved a one to one computer

initiative beginning at Wellington Middle School in the fall of 2017. The initiative will expand to Wellington High School in the fall of 2018 with plans for every child to have a digital device within the next five years. As part of the vision, the district will also seek to partner with Cowley College to ensure every graduating senior has either an industry certificate or an Associates Degree. District superintendent Mark Whitener stated, "We have a very progressive board and wonderful teachers (cont. on pg. 3)

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USD 353 TO HOST KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

Do you have a student entering kindergarten next fall? If so we would like to meet you and your student. USD 353 will hold a Kindergarten Roundup on May 4th at the Raymond Frye building (11-6). Come out and meet our teachers and principals and learn about our programs. For more info. call 326-4300.

DISTRICT RECEIVES LARGE READING GRANT

USD 353 was recently awarded a \$170,000 Kansas Reading Roadmap (KRR) Grant. KRR is part of Governor Sam Brownback's reading initiative to have all children reading on grade level by the end of 3rd grade.

The reading initiative is implemented as an after school tutoring program where students reading one or more years below grade level receive intensive reading interventions in a very small group setting. Dr. Amy O'Connor is the district KRR Coordinator and is currently working to implement the program in three elementary schools. The district hopes to expand the program to all elementary schools next fall. For more information on KRR, call the district office at 326-4300.



KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP SET FOR MAY 4th.

NEW CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR JOINS 353

Dr. Jen Kern will be the new district Director of Curriculum and Technology Integration beginning July 1st. Dr. Kern is coming to USD 353 from the Maize district. Kern has a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Baker University, a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from Wichita State, and building and district level licensure from Fort Hays State. Jen was a kindergarten teacher for several years, a building technology consultant, district technology coordinator and administrator of the Maize Virtual School. Dr. Kern brings a wealth of experience with curriculum work and technology integration. Dr. Kern will lead the new district One to One Initiative and work to help educators integrate technology in the classroom and across the curriculum.

Superintendent Whitener explained, "Dr. Kern's expertise in both curriculum and technology integration will help schools move closer to the district's vision of innovative, real-world learning." Whitener went on to say, "USD 353 is fortunate to have Dr. Kern join our team." Kern is a graduate of Caldwell Schools. Dr. Kern expressed, "I am delighted to be joining the administration team of the Wellington District. There is a feeling of excitement and momentum for creating wonderful educational opportunities for students. I feel so fortunate to be a part of this outstanding district!"



(Pictured: Dr. Jen Kern)

(Vision continued from p. 1).

staff, and administrators who seek to prepare each student for the challenges of the 21st Century. The new vision pushes the district to be innovative and future focused. Please watch for additional information on the vision in the near future.

WHS AG Students Celebrate National FFA Week

WHS students are celebrating National FFA Week with a variety of activities. Earlier this week FFA students served a free spaghetti dinner to the public in conjunction with a silent auction. Additionally, students served district staff lunch on Wednesday as part of their service to the district.

This year's FFA theme is: *Transform; Purpose to Action*. FFA promotes service to community and builds leadership skills that students will use for a lifetime. The WHS FFA Chapter is sponsored by Ag teacher Linda Chase.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, February 24

4A STATE WRESTLING @ Salina

4:15pm

Basketball: Girls & Boys CV/JV HERE
vs Collegiate

Saturday, February 25

4A STATE WRESTLING @ Salina

Monday, February 27

7:00pm

Rec VB

Tuesday, February 28

7:00pm

Eisenhower Music Program 1st and
2nd Grade

Thursday, March 2

Basketball: Girls & Boys Sub-State -
TBD



UPCOMING EVENTS

(continued)

Friday, March 3

Basketball: Girls & Boys Sub-State - TBD

7:00pm

Mr. Crusader Pageant

Saturday, March 4

Basketball: Girls & Boys Sub-State - TBD

7:00am

4-H days

Monday, March 6

7:00pm

Rec VB

7:00pm

Kennedy Music Program

Tuesday, March 7

7:00pm

Lincoln Music Program

Wednesday, March 8

Basketball: Girls & Boys State - TBD

Thursday, March 9

Basketball: Girls & Boys State - TBD

Hatfield Promoted to District Position

Mr. Adam Hatfield, WHS principal will assume responsibilities as Assistant Superintendent of Schools beginning July 1st, 2017. Prior to his tenure as WHS principal, Hatfield served as WHS asst. principal, principal of Kennedy Elementary, and WMS teacher. Mr. Hatfield will be in charge of business and operations and succeeds retiring Asst. Superintendent, Brad Morris.

SPRING BREAK

MARCH 20-24

