

K-4 Connection

Partners in Education

October/November 2021



From the Principal's Desk

Swather Families:

The first quarter is successfully complete. Students and teachers have worked hard establishing classroom procedures and routines, while learning every day. As I walk through the hallways and classrooms, students are actively engaged in reading, writing, spelling, math, social studies, and science.

It was wonderful to see so many parents attending Parent/Teacher Conferences. Having the opportunity to meet with your child's classroom teacher and hear firsthand how they are progressing makes a huge difference in their success. Thank you for your support in reading with your child and practicing math facts as their regular homework. It is this type of home/school connection that helps us make great gains in the classroom. We could not do it without your support!

Safety is an important element in everything we do at the elementary. Here are a few reminders to help make our school safe for all students. The alley to the west of the school is reserved for **buses only** throughout the school day. It is not to be used as a drop off or pick up point for students. Also, if your child has to cross Amos Street to get to the front of the school, an adult must assist them across the street. The drop off and pick up lines can be a challenge at times, and so it is important to not leave your car unattended. If you need to come into the building, please find a parking spot in the parking lot or along the street. Also, students should only be entering/exiting the car in the drop off lane, not the parking lot area. Following these procedures will keep everyone safe.

I'd like to remind you that **eight o'clock** is the official start time of the school day and it is important for your child to be at school on time. Please be aware, students need to be **in** their classrooms by the 8:00 bell. If they arrive in the classroom after 8:00, they will be marked as tardy. We ask that students arrive as close to 7:40 as possible. Breakfast is served daily from 7:30-7:50, students should arrive with enough time to eat. Thanks for helping your child get off to a positive start each day.

I do want to make you aware of a few changes to the elementary music program coming up on November 22 at 7:00 pm. Students in grades 1-4 will be sharing their talents that evening at the high school gymnasium. The program will also be shared via livestream. The link to the program will be shared closer to the date. We continue to monitor our Covid numbers to determine if modifications need to be made to the night of the performance. Our kindergarten students will have their own music program on Monday, December 20 at 2:15 at the elementary gym. Please mark your calendars for these exciting holiday events.

It is a privilege to work with your child every day. If you have questions or concerns, please contact me or your child's teacher.

Hesston Elementary School

300 E Amos Hesston, KS 67062

620-327-7102

620-327-7153 fax

Web Site: es.hesstonschools.org

Music Notes from Mrs. Funk



Event: **A Holiday Concert
“A Gingerbread Christmas”**

Who: **Hesston Elementary Kindergarten Students**

When: **Monday, December 20 at 2:15 PM**

Where: **Hesston Elementary School Gym**

Community



Music



Tradition



CLEANING OUT YOUR CLOSETS???

Nurse Tammi is in need of Girls and Boys shorts sizes 4-6, and pants sizes 4-6.



Kindergarten

Mrs. Bauerle Mrs. Flaming Mrs. Kaufman

We've been busy in Kindergarten! It's been so fun to watch them grow and learn in so many ways! In October we had a very successful field trip to P & M Pumpkin Patch. We spent a lot of time getting ready for the field trip by learning about pumpkins and their life cycle. Ask your student if they remember! During our time at the patch, we listened to a lesson about pumpkins, got to pick a pumpkin, played on all the attractions, ate lunch and most importantly watched the pig race. Everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. A big thank you to those parents who were able to join us and help with supervision, we couldn't have done it without you. We're now looking forward to a great November full of learning about turkeys and Thanksgiving. Thanks parents for all you do at home to support your student. Remember, keep reading those books, practicing letter names and sounds, number names and being able to write their name! Let us know if you have any questions!


Hesston Elementary School



Hesston Elementary
 First, Second, Third and
 Fourth Grades
Music Concert

**Students meet at the Hesston
 High School Gym at 6:45 PM**
Dress-up attire is encouraged

Community



Music



Tradition

Hesston Elementary Parents = H.E.I.P.

What a great first 9 weeks we have had! We were so excited to be able to hold Donuts with Dad this year! There was a wonderful turn out and it worked great having it at the park. We are looking into possibly continuing to have it there in the years to come.

Just a reminder that the Kansas Maid Fundraiser distribution will be happening on Thursday, November 11th from 3p-6p in the lunchroom. Please make sure you have someone to pick up the orders your child submitted. These cannot be sent home with the students. It's a good idea to bring something sturdy to carry your breads in. We thank everyone who helped make this fundraiser a success!

We ask our Swathers to please continue scanning those receipts on the Box Top app. You can even have family and friends download the app and scan as well. This is a very simple and great way to help raise money for our school! Please let us know if you ever have any questions.

Thank you, Your Help Committee! Maddie, Sarahanne, Desi, Vanessa, and Liz.

We have started vision and hearing screens at the elementary. Grades K-2 get both vision and hearing tested, 3rd grade will get vision screens, and 4th grade will get hearing screens. I will only send letters to parents if their child does not pass his/her screening, so don't panic if you don't get a letter. In this case no news is good news.

The Health Department was in the district on October 12 and gave flu shots to those who had requested it. If you haven't gotten your vaccine yet, it is highly recommended that you do. If your flu risk can be minimized with a simple injection, why not do it?

With winter on the way we usually expect an increase in cold and flu viruses. Continue to talk with your child about the best ways to decrease the spread of disease:

- Wash hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. If water is not available, use an alcohol-based hand cleaner.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth as germs are most often spread this way.

- Get plenty of exercise & sleep, drink water, and eat good food to stay healthy this winter and all year!

Don't miss your chance to get a free thermometer for your family! We've signed up with Kinsa & Lysol again this year to offer every family at HES a free thermometer. There is also an app where you can track symptoms and add any your child might have. It is all anonymous, the information only shows up in your child's grade level. It does not give any identifying information or classroom information. Sign up by following the directions on the attached flyer.





Our school is partnering with Kinsa's FLUency™ School Health Program this year!

Sign up now to receive your FREE smart thermometer

If you haven't ordered yours yet, now's your chance!

1. Text **FLUENCY** to **900900**! Open the link to download the free Kinsa app.*
2. Finish signing up with our school in the Kinsa app to get your free thermometer!

**Messages and data rates may apply. You can always text STOP to end messages.*

¡Regístrese ahora para recibir un termómetro inteligente GRATIS!

1. ¡Textea la palabra **FLUENCY** al **900900**! Abre el enlace para descargar la aplicación gratuita Kinsa.*
2. ¡Regístrese con su escuela a través de la aplicación Kinsa para obtener su termómetro gratis!



WHAT IS KINSA'S FLUENCY PROGRAM?

Kinsa is on a mission to stop the spread of illness! [Learn more at kinsahealth.co](http://kinsahealth.co). FLUency is Kinsa's school health program. For the past five years, FLUency has partnered with sponsors to provide parents free thermometers and a smartphone app to help detect and respond to spreading illnesses. This year, participation in FLUency matters more than ever to keep your school community healthy!



Know what's going around your child's school

Sepa lo que pasa en la escuela de su hijo



Receive messages from your school nurse

Recibe mensajes de la enfermera de tu escuela

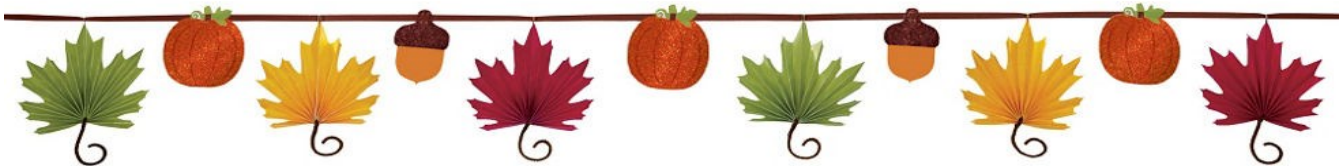
Counselor's Corner

Mrs. Dawn Lafferty

School is in full swing and there have been many opportunities for HES Swathers to show their great character around our pillars of Respect, Responsibility and Integrity.

During August, we learned all about Respect. During September we learned about Responsibility. Now during the month of October, we have been focusing on Honesty, which is like our 3rd pillar - Integrity! Students have been participating in daily lessons in the classroom and have learned actions to go with our definition. Adding actions helps the brain to remember, and it is fun to see kids put energy and enthusiasm into the actions! We have also started a new adventure...the Character Crew Podcast! Watch Class Dojo for the link to each month's episode.

I am privileged to teach all students in the wheel several times each month. Our lessons have centered around our Purposeful People big idea of the month, as well as the American School Counselor Association standards. October is Anti-Bullying month. I addressed this important topic with all classes during my wheel lessons. We talked about the difference between a mean moment, conflict and bullying. We learned that what sets bullying behavior apart is that it happens on purpose, over and over and over. You can find the video I showed to students about being an up stander, as well as the bullying sign that is posted in every classroom and common area of HES on my website. [Follow this link to watch the video together as a family.](#)



Conflict is something that happens in every relationship. My goal is to give your child tools to help them be able to solve conflicts in a positive, proactive way. Here are the steps that I am using to help students talk to each other in a respectful way while solving a conflict. These are steps you can use at home as well!

1. Cool off - Before you can problem solve, you need to be calm. This means it is important to pause, take some deep breaths or a walk before engaging in a conversation with the other person.
2. Share, Listen, Check - Share what you think happened using an "I" message: I feel _____ when _____ because _____. Listen closely as the person sharing talks so that you can check your understanding by rephrasing what the person said: "I heard you say you feel..."
3. Take Responsibility - Usually both people involved in a conflict have some degree of responsibility.
4. Brainstorm Solutions - Think of ideas that are win-win
5. Choose a Solution - What solution is likely to keep the conflict from happening again?
6. Affirm, Forgive, or Thank - End the conversation with kind words. You can say "Thanks for talking this out with me."

(adapted from Social Emotional Workshop, 2017)

If you have any questions or would like to visit with me about your child, please do not hesitate to contact me! I am here to support teaching and learning and HES, and communication about student needs is my highest priority! You can reach me at 620-327-7102 ext. 4004 or through my email: dawn.lafferty@usd460.org.

The MENU can be found on the Hesston Elementary website under Meal Menus.

The USDA has approved FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH FOR ALL USD 460 STUDENTS through the end of the school year. This does not include a purchase of milk only. Milk by itself is considered an ala carte item and student accounts are charged for that item.

Money must be on the students account prior to the purchase of an ala carte item.

Milk—\$.75

ATTENTION LUNCH VISITORS!!

Our students love having guests in the lunchroom.

However, at this time we are not allowing guests in the building due COVID restrictions.



October 29– No School

November 1—No School

November 8 – HELP Meeting/
Pizza Hut Night 5PM

November 11 – Fundraiser Pickup

November 22—Winter Concert
(Grades 1-4)

**November 24-26 – NO School—
Thanksgiving Break**

December 13— HELP Meeting/
Pizza Hut Night 5PM

December 20-Winter Concert
(Kindergarten Only)

December 21—Winter Parties

December 21 --Noon Dismissal

**December 22—January 5—
No School Winter Break**