

November 2019

**Superintendent's Corner**

**Mike Mathes**

**ELECTION**

The general election that includes races for the board of education is Tuesday November 5th. I encourage all of you to get out and vote. This election includes 4 board positions and will determine the direction the district goes for the foreseeable future. The most important decision a board makes is the selection of a superintendent. The board will be selecting a new superintendent in January. Your participation in the democratic process is essential in helping the district continue to be successful and thrive. I hope you will take time to vote!!

**Ball Fields**

If you get a chance, drive by the softball field in Allen and the baseball field in Admire. Both have been renovated and look absolutely fabulous! The district will continue to maintain and improve the fields, as no matter what happens with the current high school, those fields will continue to host our baseball and softball teams for many years to come. Thanks to the City Councils in both towns for allowing us to use and renovate the fields!



**CALENDAR CHANGES**

**November 11th - School will be in session**

**May 21st – Full day of school**

**May 22nd – Final day of school (1/2 day)**

**Would you like to send your child to preschool, but find it difficult to afford the cost? Call us to find out more information about the Preschool Tuition Assistance Program!**

USD 251 Preschool Tuition Assistance is made possible with the Mobilizing Literacy Grant. If your child (age 3-5) is attending, or you would like for your child to attend preschool, please contact the USD 251 school district office at 620-481-2014. We would love to discuss how we can assist you financially with preschool fees.

**USD 251 Parents as Teachers Program**

USD 251 Parents as Teachers Program is an early learning program for parents of young children prenatal to age six. Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a free, research-based program designed to provide practical, timely information to all families with young children including single parents, first-time parents, and expectant parents. Being a parent is a lot more fun and much less stressful if you know how your child grows and develops, and you know how to encourage your child so he/she will get a great start in life.

Parents as Teachers helps parents understand child development and connect them to the resources they need to make the best choices for their families. PAT offers **personal visits** customized for the needs of your family. Together on each visit we'll look at your child's development and talk about the parenting challenges you face *right now*, think about family dynamics impacting your child's development, and build strong protective factors to keep you, your child and your family healthy, strong and resilient.

For more information about PAT, got to <http://bit.ly/2IYo9LW>, or call 1-800-554-3412.



## Principal's Perspective

We have officially reached the end of the 1st nine weeks. Football, Basketball, and Volleyball seasons are behind us and basketball season is a couple weeks in. As I mentioned in my last newsletter, I want to focus my thoughts here on the Redesign that has officially launched at NLC Elementary. Last newsletter was part 1 of 4, as I spoke about Student Success Skills - the first of four redesign principles tasked to us by the KSDE. Next up is Family, Business, and Community Partnerships!

### NLC Redesign: Principle #2 - Family, Business, and Community Partnerships

Logistically, this is a tough one for us, our parents, and our multiple communities given that our school is located in the far corner of a 450 square mile district! Nonetheless, we are pushing ourselves to try to overcome this hurdle. As an example - last year we held our first ever Freedom Walk in Americus, KS. This year, we are loading up grades 2-8 and transporting them to Reading to conduct our Freedom Walk at Reading on November 7th at 9:00am. The Freedom Walk itself is also a partnership/connection opportunity, as we will have a local honor guard lead us and have photos of local veterans being displayed. We also ask any veterans to join alongside us on our Freedom Walk! Other examples are: welcoming in ESU students for cultural experiences, helping the local church with their food bank, assisting and fundraising for local non-profits, engaging parents on the details of our redesign, and much, much more. Ultimately, research shows that when schools, parents, families, and communities work together, students earn higher grades, attend school more regularly, stay in school and are more motivated! If you would like to come speak or talk to us about how we can better serve each other - please contact me! Corey Wiltz - [wiltzc@usd251.org](mailto:wiltzc@usd251.org) or by calling me at the office at 620-481-2086!



ESU Students visiting students in Social Studies

### COUNSELOR COMMENTS

During the last week of October, NLC Elementary students will participate in **Red Ribbon Week**. Our theme for the week is ***It's Cool to be Drug Free***. The students will be given items to keep such as: red ribbons, bookmarks, pencils, and bracelets. The students will also enjoy dress up days on Tuesday the 29th -Thursday the 31st. The students will participate in signing a large banner as a school pledging to be drug free. Several activities will round out the week. It is a week to have some fun, but also express the importance of making healthy choices for their minds and bodies.



Mrs. Aimee Landgren; NLC Elementary (K-8) School Counselor

## SCIENCE-MRS. HEINS

WOW! It is hard to fathom that the first nine weeks is coming to a close as I write this letter. It has been a whirlwind of activity in the science room!

Bungee Jumping Barbie was the focus for our review of the scientific method with the eighth grade. Students designed the lab and collected data using One Direction dolls. Groups used the information in a challenge to determine how many rubber bands to use to get Barbie (20 grams lighter) closest to the ground without injury. The winning group came within 4cm from touching! Oral presentations centered around their company website where information about their company as well as from the lab were presented. Our current focus is on Earth Science. We are studying how humans impact Earth. We have been calculating, graphing and interpreting world populations from 1980 to predictions to 2100. Will a population of 13.6 billion be sustainable? What resources will this require? This was the springboard for Water Quality issues including the Ogallala Aquifer, watersheds and ocean pollution. Many game simulations have been played to learn about the importance of water and how it is impacted by humans.

Seventh grade reviewed the scientific method with paper rockets. After creating a control rocket, a modification was made. Data was collected, presented and shared. Students then worked on “Claims, Evidence and Reasoning” to justify the success of their modification. Our current focus is Earth Science. The seventh grade is participating in a research project entitled GEODE-Geological Models for Explorations of Dynamic Earth. This project is funded by the National Science Foundation and is being offered by the Concord Consortium. The goal of the GEODE project is to develop computer-based lessons that help students learn about plate tectonics and related Earth processes, develop modeling practices, and learn to develop scientific arguments. The computer models students use to explore the concepts are amazing! There are 5 modules: Earth’s Moving Surface, Interpreting Earth’s Clues, What Happens with a Lot of Moving Plates, What Drives Plate Motion, and What will Earth Look Like in the Future? For each module, students work through models, discuss, answer questions based on evidence, justify their answers based on evidence, and take notes/make predictions on a Summary Table. The work each time adds another piece to the puzzle “What will Earth look like in 500 million years?” our driving question.

Sixth grade spent much of the first nine weeks learning about equipment, how it is used, then practicing their newly acquired skills with labs. Students learned about the scientific method with a Gummy Bear Lab. During this lab, students made a hypothesis, identified variables, wrote a procedure, gathered data and learned how to graph on the computer, as well as wrote a conclusion. We then worked on “Claims, Evidence, and Reasoning” to justify the effects of the liquids on the bears. Our current focus is Life Science. We use an on-line program entitled STEMscopes. Our first unit dealt with competition in ecosystems with the performance expectation of analyzing and interpreting data to provide evidence for the effects of resource availability on organisms and populations of organisms in an ecosystem. Students played interactive games to learn about concepts and vocabulary. Data was collected and interpreted from the games, then used to answer questions. Students soon discovered through the activities that it is not easy to be an animal in the wild and survive. There are many factors from invasive species to resources availability that could create their demise.

## News from Second Grade

Second graders are busy learning about states of matter and how to be good citizens. They are learning how to count different combinations of coins. After that, they are going to be adding and subtracting 2 digit and 3 digit numbers. In reading, they are learning about animals through fiction stories and fables. One of their favorite fables is The Boy who Cried Wolf. We will start learning about animals around the world in November. Each student will pick an animal to research and create a habitat for it using a shoebox. Earlier this month, we enjoyed a trip to the Edwards farm and returned with pumpkins!





# Northern Heights High School

## PRINCIPAL'S PEN

“If Everyone is Moving Forward Together, then Success Takes Care of Itself”  
Peggy Fort

The fall season has come to an end and the winter season will begin soon. Basketball practice will begin November 18th. The basketball coaches will be meeting with the athletes when all fall sports are completed.

The fall play will be presented on Saturday, November 16th, at 7:00 pm in the Northern Heights Gymnasium. The Theatre's production is *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* - a witty romantic comedy for all ages. Mrs. Malcolm and her theatre students have been working hard on the play and the set.

FBLA will be hosting their Veterans Day Program on Thursday, November 7th, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The afternoon will be filled with a program honoring our Veterans. Please pass this information to any veteran you may know.

November 2nd State	Volleyball and State Cross Country
November 4th & 5th	NLC First Honor Flight for Veterans
November 7th	Veterans Day celebration at Northern Heights from 1:00 to 3:00
November 8th	NO School - Teacher Inservice
November 11th	School will be in session - Veterans Day
November 13th	NHHS Fall Sports Banquet - 6:00 pm - Site Base meeting in Library after Banquet
November 15th-17th	FCCLA National Cluster
November 18th	NHHS Winter Sports Practice Begins
November 25th	Scholars Bowl at Osage City and FFA Leadership at MV.
November 26th	NHHS Wrestling at Council Grove - Scrimmage 6:30
November 27th-29th	Thanksgiving Break
December 4th	FFA - Welding at Paola
December 5th	NHHS Wrestling at Lyons at 5:30
December 6th	Senior Citizen Dinner at NHHS beginning at 12:00
	NHHS Basketball at West Franklin - 4:45 pm

Have a Wonderful Thanksgiving season!  
Happy Fall! Peggy Fort

Please join us on  
Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> for a  
**Veteran's Day**  
**Celebration**

Northern Heights High School  
1:00-3:00 pm

Sponsored By:  
 FBLA

- Veterans Recognition
- Patriotic Songs and Poems
- Veteran's Day Poster Contest
- Student-Produced Video Presentation
- Cake and Punch Reception to Follow

"Honoring Those Who Served"

## Technology and Art Come Together

When thinking of art supplies things such as paper, pencils, paints, and clay may come to mind, however, technology is also an important ingredient in modern arts education. Jake Jones, Art teacher at Northern Heights, teaches Introduction to Art, 2D, 3D Design, Photography, and Art Portfolio classes this semester. Over the course of these classes, art students use their Chromebooks to access assignments on Google Classroom, Google Slides for presentations, YouTube for art demonstrations and informative videos, along with accessing Google Images and Pinterest for inspiration and ideas. Students in the photography class especially utilize technology ranging from personal cell phones to digital cameras for taking pictures, and several web-based photo editing programs, Pixlr, BeFunky, and PhotoPea.



3D Design students work on their bas relief sculptures.

Art student Kermit Hunter researched Egyptian mythology for inspiration for his bas relief sculpture.

## RES - READING FACILITY WIND FARM SUPPORTS NORTH LYON COUNTY HONOR FLIGHT

The senior project manager for the construction of the RES Reading Facility Wind Farm, Andrew Shetter, delivered a \$10,000 check to Principal Peggy Fort, North Lyon County Honor Flight coordinator and Northern Height High School. The donation will support the Northern Heights chapter of Kansas Honor Flights, a program dedicated to the transportation of America's veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifice.

The donation will enable Northern Heights High School students to accompany and aid the veterans during their trip to the nation's capital next month and for upcoming future trips.

"We have a strong policy for hiring veterans and supporting local community initiatives whenever we begin renewable energy projects, so the opportunity to help both students and our veterans is a win-win," said Andrew Shetter, senior project manager for RES. "Not only are we supporting school initiatives through this donation, we're also helping support local veterans."

Northern Heights High School is overwhelmed by this generous donation and want to thank RES for their support. Over the last several weeks, the students have been working many hours toward fundraising as well as making final preparations for our first trip to Washington D.C. The students at Northern Heights High School have met with their veterans in order to get to know each other before the trip. The students and veterans are getting excited as the trip nears. We had several very successful fundraisers so far to help us raise the money needed for the trip. Thank you to all of our community members who made monetary donations by check or through our online 99Pledges account, came to our Bingo and Spaghetti Night, ate at our Pulled Pork meals during Senior Nights for Volleyball and Football, supported us at the NLC Veterans memorial or bought candy bars from our local businesses. And congratulations to the Sull family who won the raffle for the flag blanket. Through these efforts, we have made enough money to cover the cost of our students, their veterans, and our two sponsors who will be traveling with the group on this first trip. Our next step is to ensure the longevity of this program. To this end, the RES donation will help us establish a fund with the Emporia Communities Foundations as a way to help in our future fundraising and donations collection. We are excited to pair with ECF as we establish our Honor Flight program.

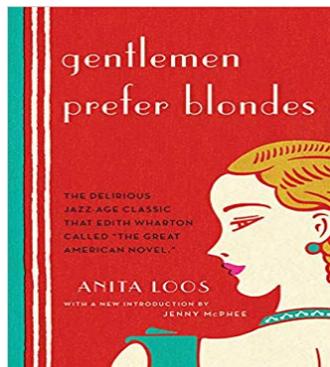


Left to right-Mark Zarandi- RES Commercial Manager, Brian Adams- RES Foreman, Peggy Fort- Principal and NLC honor flight coordinator, Andrew Shetter-RES Senior Project Manager, Jacob Anderson-RES Environmental Laborer, Tee Preisner-student veteran chaperone, Kylee Sull,-student veteran chaperone, Abbey Johnson-student veteran chaperone, Sandy Eckert, NLC honor flight student coordinator

## Gentlemen Prefer Blondes

Please support the Northern Heights High School Theatre program by attending our Fall Production of Anita Loos' *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, dramatized by Kristin Sergel. The curtain will go up on this witty romantic comedy at 7 PM on Saturday, November 16 in the NHHS gymnasium. Our cast and crew include:

Debra Sparks-Thomas as Lorelei Lee  
 Sophia Arens as Dorothy Gilbert  
 Tee Preisner as Mr. Lee (Daddy)  
 Kermit Hunter as The Captain  
 Taj Bailey as Boy 1/Porter/Mr. Broussard, Sr.  
 Kaley Boyce as Mrs. Spofford  
 Darrett King as Henry Spofford III  
 Caleigh Smart as Miss Chapman  
 Olivia Barrett as Aunt Dolly  
 Bobby Rathke as Bert/Hotel Manager  
 Wayne Burton as Sam



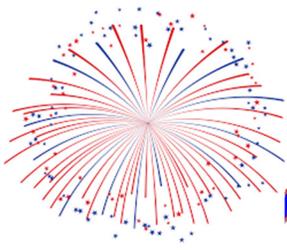
Ethan Hansen Boy 2/Porter/Mr. Broussard, Jr.  
 Tamara Rued as Chambermaid  
 Kayleen Baldrige as Girl 1/Mrs. Van Osborn  
 Alyssa Redelfs as Sylvia Van Osborn  
 Elizabeth Hunter as Girl 2/Mrs. Van Austin  
 Kami Miller as Girl 3/Margaret Van Austin  
 Gavin Piper-Stage Crew/Lights  
 Mitchel Redelfs-Stage Crew/Lights  
 Aaron Ross-Stage Crew/Curtain  
 Luzia Rulle-Sound Effects  
 Hunter Smart-Stage Crew/Lights

## Wildcat Marching Band



The Wildcat Marching Band had an incredible season! They received Excellent ratings at the Kansas State University Marching Festival and the Emporia State University Marching Festival. The students also traveled to Odessa Missouri and performed at the Odessa Marching Festival and placed third in their division. Incredibly proud of these kids and all their hard work this year. Congratulations to all our seniors! Gabe Brammell, Courtney Elbert, Southern Hall, LeAnn Landis, Joey Meyers, Myra Phillips, Amber Potter, Kylee Sull, and Malinda White.





North Lyon County

# Freedom Walk



## For Those Who Have Served Our Country

North Lyon County Elementary will conduct the second annual **Freedom Walk** on **Thursday, November 7th, 2019**. We will begin at **9 a.m.** by the Reading Elevator, march north to the corner, turn east down Franklin, and march to the city park. Help us celebrate and thank our veterans for their service to our country by lining the parade path.

Send pictures of a veteran you would like to have honored to school with your child by **November 1st**. Pictures will be scanned and enlarged for students to carry during the Freedom Walk.



USD 251 is looking for a Substitute Cook to fill in at Northern Heights High School December 2-20 and January 27-31. Applications may be obtained in person at the district office, or by visiting our website at [www.usd251.org](http://www.usd251.org).

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

LOCAL  
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