



Scranton Attendance Center

Board of Education Report

February 2014

To: Dr. Steve Pegram, Superintendent
From: Mrs. Jennifer Hanni, Principal
Date: 3 February 2014
Re: February BOE Report

The following is a summary of the activities and news at the Scranton Attendance Center for the month of January, as well as a look ahead to events during the month of February.

Spelling Bee

SAC held their school-wide spelling bee at 2:00 on Friday, January 24 in the gymnasium. Two students from each classroom competed through several rounds of words. Third grader Ariana Delaney was crowned our champion, with fourth grader Noah McCoy earning runner-up. Third grader Kendalan VanCamp placed third and will serve as our alternate. Ari and Noah will compete in the Osage County Spelling Bee on February 12 at 1:30 in the Osage City High School gymnasium. Their classroom teacher and principal will support them during the event, and we've invited parents to attend as well. We wish them the best of luck and are proud they are representing SAC.

Recent Assemblies

As part of our building behavior management plan, we have been utilizing "Fun Fridays" to reward students for positive choices. On Friday, January 17th, our STUCO members put on a Code of Conduct assembly where they debuted our newly created code of conduct. The three STUCO members from each classroom took one attribute of our code, and created a presentation to teach the rest of the student body how to display that trait. Presentations ranged from a full-sized poster to a video to cartoon stories, and all broadcast the message of what it means to be a Charger. These students were completely in charge of this project and did a fantastic job. We're very proud of our STUCO's leadership in creating this code, as well as their hard work and focus when presenting to the rest of the student body.

Following our Code of Conduct assembly, we rewarded our 2nd-quarter Fuel Up to Play 60 winners with a hands-on hockey experience. District band instructor and local minor league hockey player Lance Quilling spoke about the importance of staying active, and his chosen sport of hockey. Students who had met their fitness goal were awarded a prize (ranging from free admission to Going Bonkers to a Fuel Up to Play 60 bag), as well as the chance to try on Mr. Quilling's hockey equipment. We're glad to promote fitness and health, as well as provide students a chance to hear interesting speakers.

On January 31st, SAC students and staff were honored with a presentation by the Standing Bear Inter-Tribal Brotherhood Gourd Society. This group brought in a traditional drum and taught students about Kansas Native American history in honor of Kansas Day. Students were able to participate in a traditional dance, as well as ask questions about their traditional dress, rituals, and other information. Students and staff truly enjoyed the experience.

4th-grade Grandparents' Day

January 31st we hosted about 100 4th-grade grandparents for a tour of their students' classroom, our "wax" museum and lunch. Fourth-grade students studied and researched famous Kansas people and historical figures, and then two classrooms showed off their knowledge by dressing and acting like their chosen individual. Another classroom displayed their science knowledge through an experiment, while another completed an activity with the visitors. Following those presentations, students joined their grandparents for lunch.

Healthy Habits for Life Grant

Lisa Crook, Health Aide at Scranton Attendance Center, was one of the recipients of the Healthy Habits for Life grants from the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Foundation. The BCBSKS Foundation distributed grants totaling \$149,650.16. Grant recipients are using the dollars for programs that help school-aged children reduce their cardiovascular risk, increase their physical activity or learn healthy eating habits.

Mrs. Crook used the grant money to purchase pedometers for the 3rd & 4th grade students. The school participates in the Fuel Up to Play 60 program, which encourages students to eat healthy and get in 60 minutes of activity a day. The SAC students are encouraged to reach a goal of 60 minutes a day, 5 days a week, 75% of the time over an 8-week period. The pedometers will help students have a goal of 12,000 and 16,000 steps, the equivalent of 60 minutes of activity. As the students see their progression throughout the day, it will encourage them to be more active. Mrs. Crook hopes this goal will become a lifelong habit. Students are encouraged to track their steps and earn a reward at the end of the quarter if they reach their goal (see the Assembly article above for information regarding our 2nd-quarter reward).

Professional Development

SAC staff has continued to work with McRel's Evaluation tool, Marzano's *Classroom Instruction that Works*, and BYOC. During January's professional development, staff reflected on Standard 4 of McRel, including discussions of learning styles and differentiation. They also reviewed the importance of summarizing and explicit note-taking instruction as keys to student success. Finally, they continued their curriculum work, entering information into the online BYOC system concerning our math curriculum and its connections to the standards. Staff will continue this pattern during February, as well as add information about the upcoming state assessments and a refresher course on tracking professional development points. In addition to these dates, our staff is also taking advantage of additional math training. Three teachers will travel to Osage City for presentations by KSDE math trainers, and we will host Dr. Anne Coester half a day for each grade level to discuss specific grade-level standards, content and shifts. We look forward to continuing to hone our skills as educators.

Field Trips

Both grade levels at SAC have field trips planned in the coming month to help provide another connection to the material they are studying in the classroom. Each 4th-grade class will visit the one-room schoolhouse. During the first week of February, each 4th-grade class will travel to the one-room school house at the Kansas Museum of History as part of their Rural School Days program. Students will dress and act the part of students who attended these schools, including packing their own lunch, using chalk tablets, and following the strict rules of a school marm. This activity connects with their reading and social studies unit about the culture and history of the Midwest. On February 27th, all third graders will travel to the Topeka Performing Arts Center for the Sheffel Theater Clinic. Students will participate in several rotations that highlight the various aspect of theatre, including props, make up, and voice projection. This activity gives the students the chance practice additional skills outside of the academic realm, and the chance to develop life skills.

Hands-On Learning

As part of our push to increase student engagement and student-centered activities, many SAC classrooms have completed some hands-on projects to take the content deeper. Students in Mrs. Bolz's class witnessed the power of magnets with some experiments, while those in Mrs. Washington's class used fraction cards to help visualize which fractions were greater than, less than, or equivalent. Students also used blocks and shapes to help determine parts of area, and learned about static electricity with a *hair-raising* experiment. Mrs. Wallace's tier group students practiced some phonics and letter work by writing their answers in shaving cream on the tables. These activities, and the many others continuing at SAC, help students visual and manipulate information to make better connections and therefore understanding of the content. We enjoy included these types of instructional opportunities throughout our curriculum to add this engagement and success.