



# Scranton Attendance Center

## Board of Education Report

### March 2014

To: Dr. Steve Pegram, Superintendent  
From: Mrs. Jennifer Hanni, Principal  
Date: 4 March 2014  
Re: February BOE Report

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

#### **Dictionary Delivery**

On February 11<sup>th</sup>, the Overbrook Rotary delivered a personalized dictionary to each 4<sup>th</sup> grader at SAC. We are very grateful for their generosity and partnership in promoting the importance of education for our students. Following the delivery, students were able to put them to good use with a vocabulary activity.

#### **County Spelling Bee**

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, third grader Ariana Delaney and fourth grader Noah McCoy represented SAC at the Osage County Spelling at Osage City High School; third grader Kendalan VanCamp attended as the alternate. While both missed their first-round word, as did 8 of the other 12 competitors, I was proud of their hard work preparing for the event.

#### **One-Room Schoolhouse Field Trips**

During the final week of February, each 4<sup>th</sup>-grade class took a field trip to the Kansas History Museum's one-room schoolhouse to experience a day of school like their great, great grandparents might have had. Many students dressed the part and brought their home-packed lunch in a tin can. At the schoolhouse, they were warmed by a wood-burning stove while they practiced their history, arithmetic, penmanship, and spelling. They also learned how to play "Bird, Beast, or Fish" and how strict the school marms were with their students. These lessons all tie in to their current language arts and social studies units about the Great Plains. Our students really enjoyed this trip and can now make those connections to their curriculum content.

#### **Sheffel Theatre Clinic**

On February 27, all of our third graders ventured to the Topeka Performing Arts Center for a day learning about all the different aspects of a theatre production. Classes participated in several stations, including face painting, improv acting, set design, and voice lessons. During this clinic, students are able to expand their knowledge of the variety of roles involved in a production, as well as hone their speaking and listening skills that are a part of the new state language arts standards. Students and staff alike truly enjoyed their trip.

#### **Expert Speaker**

As another part of our 4<sup>th</sup> grader's Great Plains unit, students were able to learn from area farmers about how the process of farming works, all of the ways farming impacts our local economy, and all the many products farmers are responsible for. On February 3, speakers from Fawl Farms joined our students to share first-hand information about the farming industry to go along with their curriculum's focus. They were even treated to chocolate-covered soy beans, yet another product produced by local farms. As the weather gets warmer and planting season nears, students will take a trip to see all of this information in action.

#### **SAC/OAC Yearbook**

SAC and OAC will again combine their yearbook to include students in preschool, kindergarten, and grades 1-4. The cost of a yearbook is \$15, and will be printed in full color. Mrs. Rhonda Cathey and Mrs. Stephanie Ziegler just put the finishing touches on this year's edition, featuring pictures of individual students, classrooms, events, and candid shots of activities that have taken place throughout the year. We thank both educators for their hard work in putting this together.

## **Assessments**

Students will take a variety of assessments during the month of April to help us gauge their abilities and progress, as well as the relevance and rigor of our curriculum. Students will begin by taking the ACT Aspire test, which will be given to all USD 434 students grades 3-10 by the end of first semester next year. This test will give data on a student's college and career readiness, as well as a projected score on their future ACT. We hope to use this data as another way to measure grade-level abilities and growth over the years. In late April, students will take the transitional state assessment tests on the new KITE system. This newly developed test is based on the new standards and includes technology-enhanced items, and serves as the field test for the 2015 state assessment tests. Scores for the state assessments won't be released until next fall, but we hope to use some of the data to see if our curriculum is meeting the new standards effectively. Finally, students will finish the year by completing final curriculum assessments that will show their growth over the course of this year, as well as some benchmark reading tests to provide us the last data point for our growth this year. We look forward to seeing our students' progress and using the data to make future curriculum and instructional decisions.

## **Staff Development**

SAC staff participated in a variety of professional development activities during the month of February and will continue their professional growth throughout the remainder of this year. At the district inservice held on February 17, staff reflected upon the final McRel standard on the district-selected evaluation tool and completed their self-reflection. Staff will discuss their self-reflections with me in order to prepare for full implementation of the tool next school year, as well as to deepen their understanding of the standards and expectations. Also during this district training, staff reviewed how to submit professional development points and got their first glimpse at the new state assessment delivery system. They finished up their day with Build Your Own Curriculum work. On February 21, Dr. Coester of Emporia joined our staff for a half-day professional development session focused on the new math common core standards and how to provide hands-on *instruction* on topics such as math facts and fractions. Teachers took away many valuable tips and tricks for not just practicing, but teaching these concepts. Several teachers will be attending various other activities throughout the remainder of this year, including training on using project-based learning and technology to engage students, as well as additional sessions on implementing the new math standards. Teachers will also be continuing their curriculum work with BYOC, as they finish their math curriculums and move into Language Arts. All of these sessions are in addition to our weekly collaboration meetings where teachers discuss upcoming curriculum and instructional plans, data from recent assessments, and various other topics. We are very grateful for the opportunity to work together to grow as professionals.