



Scranton Attendance Center

Board of Education Report

April 2014

To: Dr. Steve Pegram, Superintendent
From: Mrs. Jennifer Hanni, Principal
Date: April 2, 2014
Re: April BOE Report

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

SAC Talent Show

On Thursday, March 13 SAC held a talent show where students displayed their various skills for the entire school and parents. Our STUCO came up with the idea, and students signed up for the show after receiving parent permission. Acts included students doing cartwheels, singing, telling jokes, dancing, completing a Rubik's cube, tying knots, and playing the piano and drums. Third quarter STUCO members introduced each act, as well as served as stage hands, preparing for upcoming acts. I'm very proud of not only our talented student body and their courage to perform in front of a large audience, but also at the leadership and organization our STUCO members displayed throughout the show. It was a fantastic event that we plan to continue again next year.

Fuel Up to Play 60 Assembly

On Friday, March 28th, SAC hosted the Kansas Koyotes for the Fuel Up to Play 60 rewards assembly, coordinated by health aide Lisa Crook. One dance member, three football players, and the owner spoke to the students about exercise, eating healthy, and making good choices for the future. Students received awards according to how many times they met their Fuel Up goal this year. In addition to providing students who had met their Fuel Up to Play 60 goal for the third time this year with season passes to all their games, the Kansas Koyotes also provided a pass to all SAC students for one game! The owner, Nick Baumgartner, would love for our students to go to the April 19th game. If we can get a good number of students to come that night, they will be recognized and will get to go down on the football field and high five the players as they come in to the stadium! We're very thankful for the Kansas Koyotes' support and generosity as we work together to promote healthy living.

Night at the Museum and Music Concerts

On Wednesday, April 16, SAC will host our annual art show and music concerts. Each student's artwork from throughout the year will be on display beginning at 5:00 pm. We will also plan to have a collection of projects completed on the iPads showing in the cafeteria as well. Our 3rd graders will conduct their music concert beginning at 6:00, with the 4th grade following at 7:00. The 3rd grade program is centered around "Making a Difference," and to help follow that idea, they are conducting a collection of bath goods to donate to the Silverbacks organization. We look forward to an evening of showing off our multi-talented students.

Thumbs Ups, Positive Office Referrals, and Character Counts Awards

We've been emphasizing the positive at SAC and rewarding students for their positive choices in a couple of ways this year. In several individual classrooms, students earn thumbs up for a variety of positive behavior choices that they "cash in" for various rewards, such as lunch with a teacher, "Stinky feet day" where they get to have their shoes off, or "Pet Shop" where they bring in a favorite stuffed animal to sit on their desk for the day. Students are also rewarded with Positive Office Referrals where they are sent to the office with a compliment or acknowledgement of their smart choices, and their picture and reward are emailed to parents. Finally, teachers can nominate students for the Character Counts wall that emphasizes the different character traits studied during their guidance lessons, such as Doing the Right Thing or Being a Friend. These students earn a certificate, their picture on our wall, and their name and accomplishment announced during morning announcements. Our staff feels this positive feedback sends a strong message to the rest of the school about the importance of our choices and our character. We feel it's important to acknowledge and celebrate these successes.

ACT Aspire and State Assessments

Students will take a variety of assessments this month to help us gauge their abilities and progress, as well as the relevance and rigor of our curriculum. Students have begun taking a computer-based timed test in each of these areas: reading, English, writing, math, and science. It has been their first exposure to a timed test, but not their first taking assessments on a computer. Students have responded well and seem to be giving their best effort. We hope to receive data from these tests before school gets out in May, and we will use the information to help plan not only instruction and support for individual students, but also consider the data as we make curriculum decisions. In late April, students will take the transitional state assessment tests on the new KITE system. Students will practice using the tools and format of this test prior to their test session, as the state continues to work out the bugs in this field test. Each 3rd and 4th grade student will be testing approximately 8 hours throughout the month, broken in to testing one hour a day for 4 continuous days, then doing the same two weeks later. Because students have taken many of their curriculum assessments online throughout the year, we are confident this testing really won't be anything unusual for them and we're excited to see the results of all their hard work and growth throughout this school year.

Staff Development

Even though the school year is winding down, staff at SAC is continuing their development as professionals. Three of our third-grade teachers signed up to continue their work on the MSP math grant through Emporia, and will be observed by and collaborate with a nationally-known presenter, as well as spend two weeks this summer learning new strategies and methods to use to teach math to the depth required by the Common Core standards. Two SAC teachers are also learning about the newly implemented "multiple measures" discussion, and will attend training on how districts can implement this new regulation. Finally, we will finish up entering our math curriculum into the BYOC system this month, and will look at the finished product for ease-of-use and completeness before we begin the development of our English/Language arts curriculum. This is all in addition to our bi-weekly collaboration sessions where we study data from recent curriculum assessments and adjust upcoming lessons and activities as needed.