



HEADS UP

Expect the Best

Volume 5, Issue 3, March 2005

Vision, Promise, & Five Requirements For Success

The Vision:

A new middle school campus that will provide a safe learning environment for our middle school students

Additional elementary classrooms

The Promise:

To construct, by school year 2007-2008:

a 46,000 square foot middle school complex

a 16,000 square foot gymnasium

five additional elementary classrooms with a physical education facility

Five Requirements For Success:

1. A continued growth in the present tax roll at a rate that equals the twenty year average
2. To sell the bonds at an interest rate of 3.75% or less
3. A construction manager to assist school in planning and supervising the project to prevent delays
4. Selection of competitive subcontracts that save 10% of the projected costs
5. The continuation of the Kiamichi Career-Tech agreement.

Bond Sale Completed

At a special lunch meeting of the Eufaula Board of Education, sealed bids were opened for the sale of the first \$850,000 of the \$2.8 million school bonds authorized by the January 11th school election. The Bank of Eufaula was the successful bidder with a bid of 2.863% interest. Randy Peterson, President of the Bank of Eufaula remarked that the Bank was excited about the construction of the new Middle School and wanted to do their part to help the community. Steve McDonald, the Board's financial advisor, complimented the local bank for their participation and gave them the credit for the unbelievably low interest rate. *Thanks, Bank of Eufaula!!!*

Other bids submitted included Bank of Oklahoma, 3.136%,
United Missouri Bank, 3.152%, Country Club Bank of Kansas, 3.05%,
and the Commerce Bank of Kansas City, 3.053%

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Construction Time-Line

Hours after the voters of this district passed the bond proposal for new facilities, the building process was set into motion. Long before dozers will be seen on the construction site, a timely approach to a tremendous number of details are being met by the school superintendent and Eufaula Board of Education.

Jan 11, 2005 Election Verified

Feb 14, 2005 TAO (The Atlas Organization) selected as construction manager

Mar 08, 2005 Sale of Bonds

May 01, 2005 Final Details with Architect

Jun 15, 2005 Projected date for construction to begin

Meet Margaret Dobbs

Eufaula Board Member, Zone 3

Margaret Dobbs was raised in Norman, Oklahoma. She received a BA in Education and a MS in Education Administration from the University of Oklahoma. She taught Middle School science and geography and was involved in writing a hands-on science curriculum for the Norman school district. Ms. Dobbs later moved to Eufaula and began a family and has recently become active in school and community volunteer work. She continues teaching in the fitness industry as a licensed personal fitness trainer. She and her husband Mark enjoy being parents and are challenged daily in raising their two active boys.



Achievement Tests

Why Test? It is helpful for a child to understand why schools test. Tests are yardsticks. Schools use them to measure and identify ways to improve education. Some tests tell schools that they need to strengthen courses or add additional courses. Other tests compare students by schools, school districts, or cities. Last year's test results placed Eufaula students' test scores near the top.

1. Ft. Gibson	1269
2. Eufaula	1212
3. Hilldale	1183
4. Checotah	1055
5. Stigler	1054
6. Wilburton	974
7. Hartshorne	894

**Elementary counselor, Redia Doyle,
reminds us that state mandated assessment tests
for grades 3, 4, and 5
will be given on April 11 through April 14th.**

If you will observe the Do's and Don't's listed below, you can be a great help to your child.

1. Do encourage children to do their best. Praise them for the things they do well. If they feel good about themselves, they will do their best.
2. Don't be too anxious about a child's test score, only that they truly do their best work.
3. Meet with your child's teacher as often as possible to discuss your child's progress. Ask the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do at home to help prepare for tests and improve your child's understanding of school work. Students whose parents & teachers communicate routinely have a much greater chance of success.
4. Make sure your child attends school regularly.
5. Provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying.
6. Make certain your child is rested on school days and especially the day of a test. Children who are tired are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of a test.
7. Give your child a well-rounded diet. A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind. Our school provides free breakfast and lunch for students who may qualify. If you believe your child qualifies for free or reduced price meals, please contact our school.
8. Provide books and magazines for your youngster to read at home. By reading new materials, a child will learn new words that might appear on a test. Ask your child's library media specialist about a suggested reading list.
9. Don't base your child's abilities on just one test score. Test scores are not perfect measures of what a child can do. There are many other reasons that might influence a test score.
10. Encourage your child to do these things:
 - Listen carefully to the directions that are given
 - Read the questions carefully, making sure to understand what the question is asking
 - Look quickly at the entire examination to see what types of questions are included, this will help pace yourself
 - If you do not know the answer to a question, skip it and go on. Don't waste time worrying about it. Mark it so you can identify it as unanswered. If you have time at the end of the exam, return to the unanswered question(s).

What a wonderful year we are having at Eufaula Schools! The students have been extraordinary performers again this year. Academics, music, athletics, and citizenship have all been displayed in admirable fashion. Our staff and faculty have worked diligently to enable and assist our students. How blessed we are to live in a community where supporting children and schools is a way of life. None of our accomplishments would have occurred without your limitless support. The passage of the middle school bond is just the latest example of your commitment to an effective school system. Thank All of You for helping our young people continue to be high achievers. *Steve Butcher, High School Principal*

HS Achievement Test

Martha Asher, Counselor

SAT 9 All students grades 9-11

will be tested Mar 9 & 10

End of Instruction Tests

Students enrolled in Specified Classes

*English 2 Writing Test - April 19

*Biology 1 - April 20

*English 2 - April 26

*US History - April 27

*Algebra 1 - April 28

Advanced Placement

English Language - May 2

Calculus - May 3

English Literature - May 5

US History - May 6

Physics - May 9

Chemistry - May 10

Scholarship Deadlines

Martha Asher, Counselor

Most colleges and university academic scholarships have deadlines of Feb. 1 or March 1. Independent scholarships have various deadlines. Generally, national scholarship competitions have deadlines in the late fall and early winter. Local scholarships tend to have later deadlines, March to May time-frames. Scholarship information is posted in the media center, and in the North Hall of the high school. Announcements are made reminding students of scholarship availability. Additionally, posted in the media center and in the North Hall, are listings of various web search engines for scholarship information. It is vital students provide all the information requested on scholarship applications, i.e. reference letters, essays, etc., AND that they make their submission on time and in the required format.

Misc. other activities:

Pre-enrollment for 2005-06 will begin week of March 28



Quietly Making a Difference

For years, our Eufaula Marching Band has traveled to and from events making history with their outstanding championship performances, winning an unprecedented number of awards and championships, while wowing the state with exceptional musical talent and precision marching abilities. This kind of tradition doesn't come easy and is enjoyed by only a few school districts state-wide. Our band director, Glen Sizemore, and his staff are truly gifted individuals who have the rare ability to transform students and mold them into champions. It takes a special kind of student to be a member of Eufaula's band, flag team, and choir. Expectations are high and our students meet that challenge each day at sunrise to practice that performance *One More Time*. It takes a special effort on behalf of the band parents as well. The combination of our dynamic band director, students with a commitment for success, and parents who support their children throughout those early morning practices and late night band performances has created a winning legacy for Eufaula's band program. The unbelievable generosity and incredible support for our band program by a parent who wishes to remain anonymous, along with Wal Mart of Checotah, has made possible the purchase of a 24' band trailer equipped to transport band uniforms as well as the band instruments for our Ironhead Marching Band. *Thanks, Checotah Wal-Mart & Lucretia Maynard! Your generosity has made such a difference.*

BEACON Summer School Program

There will be a BEACON summer school program at each of the 3 school sites this summer. Elementary and Middle School will be held from June 6-24th. Since I am in the initial planning stages for our summer school programs, information about the high school program will be upcoming. The details have not been finalized at this time, but the programs will be designed something like the previous programs.

This year's K through 4th grade will be held at the elementary school. Grades 5-8th will be held at the Middle School. High School Information will be announced soon. Fridays will be reserved for field trips. The annual Kids' Fair Dinner will be on June 16th. There will be a limited number of spaces for students at summer camp, so parents should sign their children up early if they are interested. The only charge will be a \$10 enrollment fee. Parents and students need to be sure and watch the Indian Journal for BEACON summer school update. *Carol Conatser, Director*

Boys Basketball *District Champs and Consolation Regional Champions*

Ending the season with a 16-11 record doesn't come close to portraying this year's competitive ironhead basketball schedule. Losing 8 games by a total of five points gives a better picture of just how tough the season has been. The team will miss the seniors and the leadership they have provided in Ronnie Roye and Thomas McIntosh, and are looking forward to the contributions that Dustin Blackman and Ashton Bowie, to mention just a few, will make in the 05-06 season. *coach Bradley Campbell*

Girls Basketball *Consolation Regional Champions*

What an ending to build on. We are already very excited about next year. We have some unfinished business to take care of. The girls had an outstanding post-season and finally started believing they were capable of belonging against the best in 4A. The girls ended the season 6-20. They came on very strong in the playoff against some talented teams. One of the biggest problems facing us this year was learning "how to win." We had the lead going in to the fourth quarter several times this year. We just had a hard time hanging on to it. We figured it out late in the year, but what better time than then. We believe that success breeds success! Once the girls figured out how to win, their confidence went off the charts. That's why they feel there's business to take care of in the off-season, summer, and preseason, because they loved playing in the area tournament and want to return next year to finish the season in the "Big House!" We will miss Summer and Peggy tremendously as they were a huge part of our chemistry. But, we wish them the best and look forward to the great group of girls coming back next year. Keep working hard, Lady Heads, and the rewards will come! coach Shasti James

Powerlifting

We won the Roland Invitational Tournament and were runnerup at Pocola. We were 3A runnerup at area. We qualified 10 lifters for state at McCloud on March 11. They include: Trent Fry, J.T. Thomas, Anthony Wind, Richard Rea, Kevin Jones, Tyson Nixon, Ryan Bliss, Billy Christy, J.P. Parker and Matt Gulley. *coach Kerry Roberts*

Track

The track team has high expectations as defending long jump state champion, Trey Bowie, returns along with all members of the 400 meter relay team that finished 6th at state last year, and the state qualifying 1600 meter relay team is back. Summer Brown, a state qualifier last year, returns for the girls track program. *coach Kerry Roberts*

Golf

Twenty-five new golfers will be hitting the fairways this spring as our golf program at Eufaula Public School takes off. Interest in the sport has steadily grown over the past five years, and because of that growth, Golf Coach Bill Bumgarner welcomes coaches Lauga Gragg and Justin Gaines to the middle school golf program. The two assistants will help teach the fundamentals of the game, as well as the importance of golf etiquette on the course.

Heads Up

Bill Wilson, Superintendent

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