



HEADS UP

Eufaula Public Schools

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"Expect the Best"

LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION!

Those traveling past Eufaula Elementary School in the early morning hours of April 13th & April 21st witnessed one of the first major steps of the elementary and middle school construction projects. The laborers and equipment began arriving at 3 o'clock A.M. First, portable lights and two generators were positioned to light the work area without obstructing the concrete trucks or finishing equipment. Next, the pump truck (photo top right) was positioned to receive the concrete that would soon be arriving.



The architect and job superintendent were on site to inspect the vapor barrier and the proper installation of the steel reinforcing bars. Shortly, Foresee Ready Mix concrete trucks began arriving. The first concrete was poured into containers for the testing lab to check the temperature and potential strength of the concrete. With the approval of the testing lab and the architect, concrete began hitting the ground at 4:04 A.M. With over 300 yards of concrete to be poured, finished and saved this day, a long day had begun.

Technology has so changed the face of construction since the construction of the Eufaula Elementary in 2000. With the pump truck placing the concrete in each corner of the 20,000 square foot slab, 15 laborers pushed the concrete into the path of a concrete leveling machine, which is controlled by lasers. After the operator calibrated the leveling machine to the lasers, the machine leveled the concrete to an unbelievable perfection. The leveling crew averages pouring and leveling 4000 square feet of concrete each hour.



There are areas of the slab where plumbing prevents the leveling machine from being used and the laborers must finish those areas by hand.

Five hours after the concrete began hitting the ground, the finishing crew began setting operator-mounted screening machines onto the slab.

With four and five finishing machines operating at the same time, the concrete began to take its finished form. Shortly after lunch, the crew began the arduous task of sawing the concrete to prevent cracking during the curing process. The day ended with 20,000 square feet of concrete ready for the steel building erectors. This process must be repeated three more times.



This slab is the compilation of months of preparation for the concrete. First the dirt contractor had to build the school pads, which was tested by the testing lab for compaction. If the pad failed the compaction tests, the pads would have been removed and the process would have started all over again with 12 inch lifts of dirt compacted and tested before the next lift could be added. Thirty-six inch spread footing with reinforcing steel must be poured with the building anchor bolts installed in the footing in just the right places. No room for error. Then the plumbing and electrical must be roughed-in. Finally, concrete forms are ready to be set.

This was the second concrete slab to be poured. The first slab was poured for the elementary school addition being added to the east end of the existing elementary building. While concrete is being poured for the middle school, the steel building erector is busy installing the steel members of the elementary school addition. The elementary school is now roofed and the steel studs are being installed. Soon masons will be busy laying the exterior concrete block walls.

The elementary classrooms are planned to be finished in time for the 2006 fall term and full day kindergarten classes. The middle school classrooms are scheduled for opening in the fall of 2007-2008. The middle school gymnasium is projected for a later completion.

Our dream of new schools for all Eufaula students won't be realized without sacrifice. The construction process has been challenged by the escalating price of gasoline. Then, the gulf coast hurricanes caused a spike in the cost of building materials. Less committed individuals would have given up, but not the Eufaula School Board. We will proceed and somehow, somehow, we will finish these projects.



What we are attempting to accomplish will take patience and understanding of the entire Eufaula school community. There will be unexpected delays and additional costs, but with a mutual understanding of these complex building projects, we will complete our schools and Eufaula's children will prosper because of our combined effort.



Mrs. Bea Baker, Retiring

Administrative Assistant Bea Baker is retiring. Her dedication to this district and the many contributions she has made both in and out of the classroom for the past thirty one years *Will Be Missed*. She has worked tirelessly for Eufaula Schools, and has given countless weekends and evenings to the district perfecting the many projects of which she has been involved. Her range of experience and expertise could fill this page, and her work ethic, unparalleled. Mediocrity is not in her vocabulary, and it is because of this drive for excellence that she has had little time for the things most important in her life. "So many things I have either put off or haven't had the time to do. The big event to Kick-Off retirement is a long awaited trip to Alaska with my husband, Phil. Visiting Houston to see our daughter and grandson (Charlie) is one of the frequent trips on our agenda. We will also be going to Missoula, Montana, where Christian and Natalie (son and daughter-in-law) now live. They love it there, and it is not far from family in North Dakota where we will also be spending some time. Besides all this traveling, we have work to do at home - the house, the yard. We certainly need to improve upon our back porch so all those "idle" evenings we've been wishing for can be enjoyed from a comfortable setting," commented Mrs. Baker. Speaking on behalf of those whose professional lives you have touched, *Thank You*. We wish you the *Joy of Indescribable Freedom* as you begin to embrace your upcoming retirement!

Victor Salcedo Named Eufaula Elementary Assistant Principal



In January of this year, long-time elementary principal, Mr. Jerry Farmer, retired from education to accept a position in another field. While we were saddened by his unexpected decision to leave, we welcome Mr. Victor Salcedo as our Eufaula Elementary Assistant Principal. After receiving his Bachelors Degree from Northeastern University and Masters of Ed. from East Central University, Mr. Salcedo taught for Morris Public Schools before coming to Eufaula.

This is his 8th year of teaching, seven of those for Eufaula Public Schools. Mr. Salcedo taught Spanish I & II and coached our football, baseball, and power lifting teams.

Eric Breon "State TOC Scholar"

Look up "scholar" in the dictionary, and you will surely find Eric Breon's picture there. As a matter of fact, Eric finished reading the dictionary just this year. One of his classmates said, "Let me get this straight... you are *reading* the dictionary... Why?" The classmate is also a top student, but could not imagine why anyone would be interested in *reading* a dictionary cover-to-cover. It is that kind of self-motivation that makes Eric a true scholar. Eric Breon, son of John and Nancy Breon is a seventh grade student at Eufaula Middle School. He recently made history at the Tournament of Champions (TOC) state scholastic competition in El Reno. An official at the tournament stated that they have not had a student do as well as Eric in *all academic categories*. Most students are "experts" in one or two fields, but Eric was awarded so many trophies, they had to find a box to carry them home! Even after he was back at school, another trophy arrived by mail. Eric competed against 574 students from 82 schools that included the state's largest districts. Congratulations to Eric, the State's Outstanding 7th Grade Student!



Making History! The First Ironhead Golf Team Makes State!

The Lady Ironhead Golf Team participated in the class 3A State Championship Tournament, May 3-4. The team led by junior Brooke Helms, ninth graders Dannah Whelan, Amy Aday, Courtney Singleton, and senior Shelly Franz gained momentum with each outing. Winning the state qualifying tournament at Henryetta and the State Regional Tournament held at the Nowata Country Club, the girls finished eighth in the state tournament held at



Cimarron Trails Golf Club south of Stillwater. With all members of the state tournament team returning next year, Coach Bill Bumgarner and assistant coach Robert Nixon have high hopes for these young ladies. No group of athletes presently in school has a better chance of winning Eufaula's first state championship. Congratulations Lady Ironheads!





EHS Named the 2005 OHLAP State Champion in Class 3

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education recognized high schools from each class as “State Champions” for having the most *Okahoma’s Promise* graduates in 2005. Oklahoma’s Promise - OHLAP (Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program) is the state scholarship program that allows high school students to earn free college tuition if they meet certain eligibility requirements. Martha Asher, High School Counselor, accepted the award on behalf of Eufaula High School.

Special Education Teachers are Recognized at State Level



The State Department of Education has selected Cheryl Henderson as Team Leader, and Gwen Johnson as scorer to help evaluate over 2000 Oklahoma Alternate Assessment portfolios. These portfolios include a yearlong collection of information about students’ strengths, needs, services, and samples of the students’ academic work. The portfolio becomes a reflection of the student and provides teachers with comprehensive data to meet



the needs of students with cognitive disabilities in accordance with the federal regulations of the “No Child Left Behind” act. Diane Bertone, Special Education Director, is proud of her staff, “Having a team leader and scorer selected by the State Department to evaluate the portfolios is an impressive accomplishment and it lends such insight to our district regarding good portfolio creation.”

Elementary Principal Rita Ford Announces Full Day Kindergarten Enrollment Dates

Pre-Enrollment for the first year of full day kindergarten was held on March 30. Anyone that did not attend this enrollment will need to contact the school to set up an appointment for a screening and to fill out enrollment papers. Enrollment dates for the 2006-07 school year will be as follows:

- K-2 Wednesday, August 2nd
- 3-5 Thursday, August 3rd

Birth certificate, social security card, immunization record, CDIB card, and proof of residency are required for new enrollees to the district. Anyone that pre-enrolled their kindergartner will NOT have to come the August 2nd date. If these dates won’t work, parents may call the school any time this summer to see if someone is available to do enrollment for their children.

National Board Certification

Eufaula Elementary has a number of teachers who are candidates for National Board Certification. National Board Certification is the highest recognition public school teachers can attain. They include Stephanie Fox, Diane Whelan, Vanessa Gilley, & Vicky Caldwell. They have spent many extra hours doing various projects to complete the certification process. *We are very proud of each of them!*

HEADS UP

Bill Wilson, Superintendent

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