

# HEADS UP

Volume 8 - Issue 2 - December, 2007

# Expect the Best

#### SUPERINTENDENT WILSON RETIRES



What a Trip This has Been! I am amazed and proud as I review the extraordinary improvements and changes this district has accomplished over the past seven and one half years. The Eufaula community confidently stepped up to place this school district among the best in the state.

From the beginning our faculty and staff have been asked to learn new ways of doing things. Automation in every

area of the school day has tested the nerves of each and every one of us. We have come to know well the meaning of our district's mission statement. We have become *lifelong learners*.

From student accounting software to teacher web pages to accessing on-line homework assignments and on-line attendance, our faculty and staff continue to meet the endless challenges of technology with the professional approach that has come to define our school district.

Our academic and athletic successes, soaring API scores, and a student body that represents Eufaula with pride and dignity are the result of the combined effort of parents, students, faculty, staff, administrators and Board of Education.

Eufaula, you are a unique community. A mixture of urban and rural, progressive minded and determined. You *Expect the Best* of your school district and have shown your willingness to go the extra mile in your support. You have supported school fund raisers, parent organizations, and booster clubs. You have encouraged your children's improved academic achievement (API scores) by emphasizing the importance of learning. Your support of bond proposals have made Eufaula a superior school district.

I have enjoyed my journey with you, and am confident that this board of education, the teachers, staff and administrators will continue to reach for the highest standards in providing a superior educational experience for your children and grandchildren.

I wish this school district the very best in their never-ending Trip toward educational perfection.

#### 2000-2001 School Year

Eufaula Residents pass School Bond Proposal 1187-277 Academic Team Wins OSSAA Regional Championship Site Attendance Centers Automated Elementary School Construction begins Ironhead Football Advances to State Semi-Finals Ironhead Basketball Claims Title of State Runners-Up Beacon After School Program Begins District API Scores: 856

#### 2001-2002 School Year

Construction of High School Classroom Addition Begins Teachers Attend Computer/Internet Classes All Media Centers Automated Special Services Automated Ironhead Football Advances to State Semi-Finals Ironhead Basketball Advances to State Semi-Finals District API Scores: 893

#### 2002-2003 School Year

Eufaula Elementary School Grand Opening Celebration District's Cafeterias Automated Ironhead Football Advances to State Quarter-Finals Ironhead Basketball Advances to State Semi-Finals District API Scores: 1118

#### 2003-2004 School Year

High School Classroom Annex opens Ironhead Football Advances to State Quarter-Finals District API Scores: 1212

#### 2004-2005 School Year

EHS Marching Band Wins
Sixth Consecutive State Sweepstakes
New Elementary Playground Equipment
Bond Proposal for New Middle School Passes
Productive Vo-Tech Partnership
Ironhead Football Advances to State Quarter-Finals
District API Scores: 1204

#### 2005-2006 School Year

Middle School Construction Begins
Fast Pitch Softball District Champions
Eufaula's First National Board Certified Teacher
Faculty Web Pages and Online Homework Assignments
First Ironhead Golf Team Makes State Tournament
Eufaula High School Names OHLAP State Champion
Special Education Teachers Recognized at State Level
Full Day Kindergarten Begins
Ironhead Football Advances to State Semi-Finals
API Scores: 1297

#### 2006-2007 School Year

Bond Proposal for Middle School Gymnasium Passes District API Scores: 1353

#### 2007-2008 School Year

New Middle School Opens Construction of 4th & 5th Grade Classrooms Begin Ironhead Football Returns to State Playoffs EPS Phys-Ed Program Receives State-Wide Recogniton



#### LONG TIME EUFAULA HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, STEVE BUTCHER, RESIGNS

"It has been my distinct pleasure to serve Eufaula Public Schools for almost thirteen years. I have grown to love this school district and the people of this community. I have been blessed to have gained so many great friends. It is with no small amount of sadness that I must tender my resignation effective December 31, 2007. My experiences here at Eufaula Public Schools have prepared me well to accept the responsibility of Superintendent of Holdenville Public Schools." Steve Butcher

The role of high school principal is one of the most difficult and certainly the most thankless jobs in public education. Principals are constantly balancing authority while holding a tremendous amount of respect for teachers, parents, and students. Supervising the student body during the day, and monitoring their behavior during countless evening activities, managing a diverse faculty and staff to ensure compliance with district policies and state

mandates, and in implementing and evaluating change are but a few of the many responsibilities held by our site administrators. Mr. Butcher's strong convictions and guidance have been crucial to the successes enjoyed by this district. We will miss his leadership and the dedication he has given to Eufaula schools.

#### Middle School Construction Projects

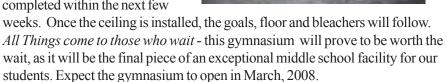
The middle school cafeteria and the gymnasium are the final two construction components of the new middle school complex, and they are both near completion. The last of the new kitchen equipment has recently been installed, the

computer and software to manage the student lunch count is on site, and new cafeteria furniture is in place.

The middle school serving line should be ready in time to offer meals to middle school students at the beginning of the second semester. Finalizing the middle school gymnasium has been a test of patience with the construc-



tion delays, but each week final completion draws nearer. Much of the interior work has been done, and the middle school gymnasium ceiling should be completed within the next few



The 4th and 5th grade classroom addition has started taking shape with the completion of the walls and roof. The classrooms should be weathered in by the end of January. When the grade school addition exterior is finished, the dirt contractor will return to finish the drainage area in front of the middle school and then work their way around the middle school to the grade school addition and the bus loop

### **State Recognizes Eufaula School District**

Since the receipt of a physical education grant in 2004, our school district has been busy meeting and exceeding the objectives and expectations of the grant:

- A new physical education facility in the Eufaula Elementary School
- Outdoor traverse Walls
- A Fitness Center at the High School
- Faculty has had health, nutrition and fitness training
- A new school wellness policy has been developed
- Physical education staff and the PEP Grant director have been invited to conduct presentations, they have won state-level awards, served on the state PE boards, and have been asked to provide PE work shops.

Eufaula Schools has earned the *Oklahoma Fit Kids Coalition Healthy and Fit School Award*. They exemplify the importance of health and wellness for Oklahoma's students and families.



#### API Scores: 2006-2007Comparative Analysis

Everything we do in the school business is essentially valued by how it affects student development. Over the last seven years, the faculty and students have made unbelievable gains in our academic standing as measured by the State Department of Education. No one can prove how much the new buildings affected that gain nor can anyone disprove the value of increased parental involvement. I would suggest the students reflect what is important to their parents and community. *Actions speak much louder than words*, and when a new direction in Eufaula Public Schools was supported, everyone "got it" - Including the Kids! We are so proud of our student body for their accomplishments as reflected below.

<b>School</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	Middle School	High School	<b>District</b>
Fort Gibson	1429	1430	1353	1399
Eufaula	1395	1326	1335	1342
Hilldale	1430	1238	1374	1337
Stigler	1282	1298	1269	1281
Hartshorne	1376	1350	1204	1245
Wilburton	1218	1096	1144	1165
Checotah	1264	1224	1066	1165

#### ACADEMIC TEAM: Another Great Year

The high school academic team and sponsors Darrell Ray and his assistant, Vicki Ridge, have enjoyed another successful year with a record of 23 wins and only 1 loss. The team won the consolation bracket at regional competition and recently qualified for the area tournament to be held on January 12, 2008.

#### The PRIDE of Eufaula

In contests across the state year after year, our Eufaula Marching Band takes competition to a new level. The students play with their hearts and with their souls. They perform with an intensity that leaves their competition overwhelmed.

It is difficult to describe this one-of-a-kind group of students, or the man behind this outstanding high school band program, Mr. Genn Sizemore. Year after year, Sizemore and his assistants, Michael Palmer and Crissy Burns, and the extraordinary group of students and parents place the Eufaula band program among the best in the state.

It is even more difficult to describe the commitment and intensity of this multi-award winning band and the effort it takes to earn the following achievements:

#### **OBA State Marching Championship**

2A State Champion HighMusic Award 2A High Visual Award 2A High General Effect Award 2A 3rd place overall (Classes 1A-2A-3A)

## **Konawa Band Day Contest**

1st Place Middle 2A
Outstanding Drumline 2A
Outstanding Color Guard 2A
High Music Award 3A
Outstanding Band Class 2A
Pursuit of Ecellence Award for
Outstanding Band Performance
(Classes 1A-2A-3A-4A-5A)

#### **Mounds Invitational Contest**

1st Place 2A Gold Outstanding Drumline 2A Outstanding Color Guard 2A 1st Overall (Classes 1A-2A-3A)

# **OSSAA** Regional Marching Contest

**Superior Rating** 

## Electronic Message Center

The New Electronic Message Center and signs that Welcome Visitors to Eufaula Elementary and Eufaula Middle School have been provided through generous donations by Canadian Valley Electric and Eufaula businesses. These Eufaula business owners and managers have met every request made of them in helping our school district, including their time as members of various committees.

Arvest Bank
Bank of Oklahoma
Bank of Eufaula
CanadianValley Electric
Eufaula Food Mart
Eufaula Ford
Eufaula Pharmacy
Nichols Food

#### 2007 EUFAULA FOOTBALL SEASON

Ironhead Football is always exciting and this year was no exception. Under the leadership of Coach Johnny Bohanon, the Ironheads returned to their winning tradition with 9 wins and 2 losses.

"Although we didn't finish the season like we hoped, the players reached a number of their personal goals and created some lasting memories. The young men worked extremely hard this year starting with spring drills and continued working hard throughout the summer. Some of our players attended passing camps at Tulsa Union and Henryetta. Their decision to attend these additional camps illustrates the kind of dedication these young men have in becoming the best athletes they can be. The players made some great gains as a result of their extra work..

I am pleased in the way our young men represented our team, school and community and that the winning Ironhead tradition continues. The 2007 Eufaula Ironheads wear the title of *Undefeated District Champs* and once again made it to state playoffs. *Coach Bohanon* 





THE 2007 IRONHEADS

Front: Coach Salcedo, Coach Bohannon, Coach James, Coach David Standing: Coach Nixon, Coach Campbell, and Coach Luna

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Ashton Bowie—District Most Valuable Player
Dustin Blackman—Defensive lineman of the year
Jon Christy—Offensive player of the year
JT Thomas—Receiver of the year
Elisha Crook—All District Defensive Back
Colton Gilley—All District offensive lineman
Zack Davis—All District offensive lineman
Mark Ford—All District offensive lineman

Date	Opponent	Location	Sc	Scores	
August 31	Holdenville	Away	30	0	
September 7	Checotah	Home	48	7	
September 14	Hilldale	Away	46	49	
September 21	Savanna	Away	48	12	
September 28	Heavener	Home	50	0	
October 5	Vian	Away	24	9	
October 12	Wilburton	Home	38	13	
October 18	Hartshorne	Away	38	3	
October 26	Stigler	Home	13	3	
November 2	Spiro	Home	33	6	
November 9 Playoffs	Prague	Home	34	46	

# Heads Up

#### **Eufaula Public Schools**

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# Superintendent

Dan Edwards