



Vol.9 - Issue 1 Nov. 2008

HEADS UP

Eufaula Public Schools

Expect the Best

Middle School Gymnasium

Construction is Complete

The Middle School gymnasium was the last in a series of Eufaula Schools construction projects that included additional classrooms at the elementary and middle school sites.



4th and 5th grades Basketball Program

Eufaula Elementary School now has a 4th and 5th grade basketball program for boys and girls. Coaches for the program are Rachel Harjo, Stephanie Fox, Cassandra Dan, and Delicia White. Players have been busy practicing and learning fundamentals after school. We are looking forward to *an exciting season!*

ELEMENTARY NEWS *by Heather Combs, Elementary Counselor*

New Pre-K Program A Success!

The implementation of the pre-kindergarten program at Eufaula Elementary has proven to be a huge success. With the collaboration of the Creek Nation Head Start, the much-needed program began the school year with three classes and has now grown to four due to the increase in enrollment of students. Most of the success of the program is due to the dedication and experience of the pre-k staff. Teachers include Sherry Rippy, Sonya Proe, Vanessa Clark, and Kassie Flinn. Teachers' assistants for the program are Carrie Sullivan, Krystal Letcher, and Penny Pratt. Students enrolled in the program receive breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack as well as access to a full time school nurse. New playground equipment was also added for pre-k students to enjoy during recess. Students enrolled in pre-k are also eligible to participate in BEACON, the after school program provided by EPS. We feel that the pre-k program is, and will continue to be, an important asset to our community by providing preschool children with a head start on their education.



Nursing Services Now Available for Students at EPS

The addition of a school nurse this year has provided a great service to our students. Shirley Hopkins, RN, APN, and her assistant, Stephanie Dawson, have stayed very busy taking care of sick students as well as providing preventative health services to all students. We are very excited to provide this service to our students.

Both Ms. Hopkins and Mrs. Dawson are life-long residents of Eufaula. Ms. Hopkins, a pediatric nurse practitioner, recently retired from the McIntosh County Health Department where she worked for 24 years. She has been a registered nurse for 33 years and earned her Pediatric Nurse Practitioner license from the University of Colorado. Mrs. Dawson worked in the home health field before accepting the position with the Eufaula school district. Several community members and organizations donated necessary supplies to begin the school year. Jeff Pippenger of Eufaula Pharmacy donated much needed medical supplies to serve our students.



Eufaula PTA provided an exam lamp as well as a set of scales. Also, Dr. Kevin Bradley, a local chiropractor, purchased an exam table for the middle school. In addition to supplies and equipment for the nursing program, Dr. Bradley and the Eufaula Indian Community donated 2 defibrillators. Eufaula Public Schools would like to thank everyone who donated materials for our nursing services. These donations have greatly contributed to its success.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS by Chris Whelan, Middle School Principal

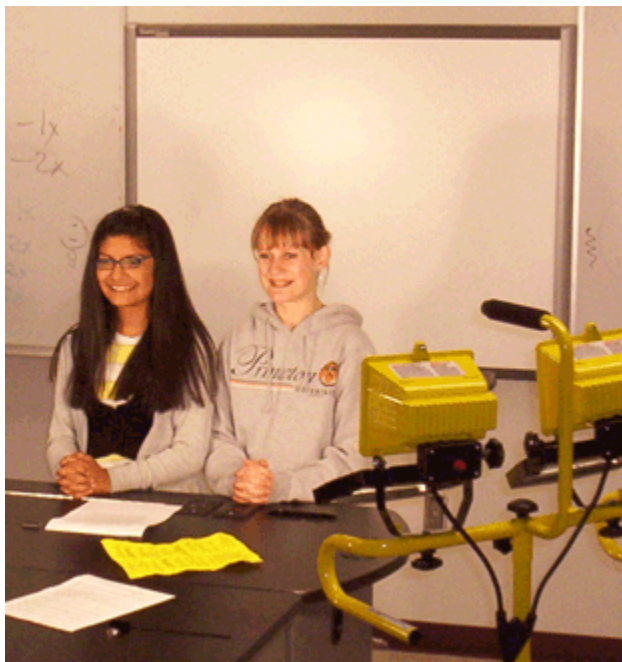
G O T N E W S !

Eufaula Middle School now has a Daily Newscast!

The brainchild of Eufaula Schools technology director Jared Efurd, 14 middle school students from grades seven and eight were chosen through an extensive interview process. The newscast is student driven beginning with the moment of silence and flag salute, the day's announcements, weather, sports, current events and thoughts of the day. The newscast is presented each morning during 1st hour via the internet. Currently *EMS News* is only available through Middle School internet access, but we hope the broadcast will be accessible to the public by next semester.

Eufaula Middle School Teaming Up to Clean Up

Eufaula Middle School is *Teaming up to Clean Up* and has joined forces with several local businesses; NAPA, Arvest Bank, Lake Eufaula Pharmacy, Eufaula Indian Community, Foresee Ready Mix, the Lake Eufaula Association, and Save Our Water Lake Eufaula to help fight the litter issues facing our community.



E-Sal Litter, continued

The group named E-SAL (Eufaula Students Against Litter) gathered on October 17. Forty-six middle school students wearing Lime Green T-Shirts sporting the E-SAL logo, along with the local cub and girl scouts and several parents met at the Lake Eufaula Association office and spent three hours picking up litter along Lake Shore Drive and down Front street.

The Middle School will use their Newscast to get the message to the students about littering and the effort that is being made to clean up our community. Letters have been sent to the business community asking for their help in this effort. All monetary support will be used to purchase t-shirts for student volunteers and to purchase safety vests as well as other supplies that will be needed to make the Clean Up program a success.

Chris Whelan, Middle School Principal, will be in charge of all Middle School Clean-Up Activities. He stated, "I think this is a very worthwhile endeavor for not only our kids, but our community. We would like to encourage you to collaborate with us either financially, physically or both. Please call 918-689-6100 and pledge your support for this community effort."

E-SAL plans on meeting once a month during the school year to pick up litter in needed areas. *The November clean up day is scheduled for November 15 from 9:00 am until Noon (Weather Permitting) volunteers are welcome.*

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS *by Rita Ford, High School Principal*

High School Grades On-Line

In an effort to enhance communication between the school and parents, all parents now have on-line access to student grades at EHS. Grades may be accessed from home, the public library or from any location with internet access.

There are a few simple steps to follow in order to access student grades. Every student has a User ID which consists of his or her first initial and last name. John Doe would be jdoe. The student has also been assigned an identification number which is the student's password and is available upon parental request.

When checking grades, go to the school district website at www.eufaula.k12.ok.us. From the district's homepage, click the words "Web Connect" located in the left sidebar. A login screen will open asking for the student's User ID and Password. After logging in, you will see a list of the student's classes. Click each individual class to access grades for that class.

Having access to a child's grades at any time during the school year allows parents the ability to keep a closer watch on how their child is doing between progress reports.

Eufaula Band Has Great Marching Season

The Eufaula Ironhead Band has had a successful marching season and brought home many contest awards.

Their accomplishments are as follows:

John Parnell Memorial Marching Band Contest: 1st in Class 2A - 3rd Overall

Konawa Band Day: 1st Large 3A, Outstanding Color Guard, Outstanding Drumline, High Music, Outstanding Overall 3A

OSAA Regional Marching Contest: Superior Rating

OBA State Marching Championship: 1st Class 2A, High Music, High Visual, High General Effect, 2nd Overall in all classes

Eufaula FFA News

The Eufaula FFA is off to a great year. Besides having doubled their enrollment this year, the FFA is happy to have a new teacher, Mr. David Turner. Mr. Turner, a graduate of Eufaula High School, comes to us from Owasso where he developed a very successful program. We are happy to have him back at his alma mater.

The FFA just finished their meat sale and it was very successful with the FFA using the profit to help meet the needs of the program. In addition, the FFA participated in the CDE speech contest at Connors State College and came home with a 1st place finish.

We look forward to many great things from the Eufaula FFA Chapter under Mr. Turner's leadership.

Retiring Teachers

Gwen Johnson, Elementary School Special Education Teacher - 30 years of experience with Eufaula Schools

Mary Burnham, Middle School Sixth Grade Teacher - 27 years of experience with Eufaula Schools

Darrell Blackman, High School Agriculture Teacher - 23 years of experience with Eufaula Schools



Vicki Efurd, Elementary School Second Grade Teacher
20 years of experience with Eufaula Schools - 28 total years

Pam Jennings, Elementary School Title I Math Teacher
21 years of experience with Eufaula Schools - 32 total years

Larry Callison, Basketball Coach and Assistant High School
Principal 4 years at Eufaula Schools 31 total years

Arlene Babylon, High School Spanish Teacher 2 years with
Eufaula Schools 18 total years

Other employees leaving the district this year include high school secretary, Lesa Butcher, BEACON director, Eddie Kennedy, High school teacher Darrell Ray, Special Education Secretary Cecilia Ray, high school teacher Thomas David, Alt Ed teacher, Austin Cox, and middle school teacher, Lindsey Oaks.

WINNING SEASON FOR IRONHEAD FOOTBALL

The 2008 Eufaula Ironhead football team is having another exceptional season. After an early season loss to arch rival, Checotah, the Ironheads have posted six consecutive wins against highly regarded teams that include Vian, Prague, Henryetta, Holdenville, Beggs and Okemah. The Ironheads are ranked number seven in class 2A and appear to be headed for a showdown with Chandler for the conference championship. Chandler is currently undefeated and ranked number two in class 2A. This will be the third time this season the Ironheads have entered a game as the lower ranked team with the Ironheads prevailing each time.

The Ironheads are led by the outstanding quarterback play of Ethan Sharp, the receiving of Matt Helms, and the running of Marquez Shine. The defense has been led by Carson Daniels and Ryan Grider.

The Ironheads are coached by Head coach John Bohanon and assisted by Vic Salcedo, Preston James and Robert Nixon.

Heads Up

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