



HEADS UP

Expect the Best

Eufaula Public Schools

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District News

Jeanette Smith, Interim Superintendent

It has been such a whirlwind of activities this first semester at Eufaula Schools. It began with a district wide pep assembly held at the football field to celebrate the first home football game under our new head football coach, Larry Newton Jr. All Eufaula students, PreK – 12 participated in the activities. Teachers, students, parents and community members joined in the celebration, and all seemed to enjoy the “ole Ironhead spirit”. Homecoming in September, brought in a record crowd to the pep assembly, parade, new fieldhouse opening, coronation and football game. Dewey Selmon’s presence and speech during the retirement ceremony for his, LeeRoy and Lucious’ Ironhead jerseys was a moving experience. His words were proof that Eufaula and this school system have been, and continue to be, the foundation for such great athletes and individuals, some well known, and others less so. Dewey, and others contribute much of their success in life to the support of their fellow students and staff at Eufaula.

As you read the school site news you will see how our current students are achieving much success of their own in academics, band, FFA, choir, softball, and so many other individual and group activities. Eufaula schools staff work extremely hard and long hours striving to support students academically and in all activities to prepare them to be knowledgeable and productive citizens. These staff members see their hard work and dedication paying off, with each student and group successes. Student and staff safety, along with school revenue decreases due to the federal fiscal cliff and the passage of state question 766, are of great concern to school administrators and Board members. Eufaula schools have an “Imminent Danger Response Plan”, but has begun collaboration with local and state law enforcement and other agencies to review and revise this plan, as needed.

On a more positive note, the semester ended with a Eufaula Schools Team Christmas Party, at the Eufaula VFW on December 15th. All staff and Board members plus a guest, were invited to attend the festivities. A delicious meal was served by the Eufaula VFW Post 8798 and Ladies Auxiliary, local businesses and individuals donated great door prizes, Janiece Vest serenaded the group with wonderful Christmas carols, and Mr. Bruce Taylor, a hypnotist, kept the Team entertained during his portion of the program. All attendees seemed to enjoy the fun and fellowship of the evening.

EUFULA SCHOOLS TEAM HOPES ALL HAD A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON AND WISH EVERYONE A HEALTHY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Remembering Our Veterans



On November 9, 2012, the Eufaula Elementary and Middle School faculty and staff along with community members joined together in honor of the annual Veterans Day remembrance.

Delegates of the Eufaula VFW Post 8798 and Ladies Auxiliary, and the American Legion were represented, as Mrs. Debbie Newton, EES Music Teacher, led a musical program performed by EES students.

The tribute to the veterans opened with the singing of the “National Anthem”, led by 5th graders Jaci Combs and Hope Salcedo. A musical medley honoring all the branches of the armed forces followed. After moving performances of “God Bless the USA” (soloists: Luke Parish & Jaci Nixon) and “Thank You, Soldiers” (soloists: Journi James & Luke Smith), there were few dry eyes left in the audience. John McCrae’s “In Flanders Fields,” the traditional Veterans Day poem, was read by Alex Parker, Kole Poindexter and Carson Thompson. During a musical interlude, Veterans Day Essay Contest winners read their essays.

1st place winner was Jaci Combs, 2nd place was Madigan Smith and 3rd place went to Madison Cox. The program was closed by Ms. Cheryl Oulds, veteran and parent, leading the audience in song to “America”. With all the students proudly waving their American Flags, those who served and paid the ultimate sacrifice were honored and remembered. Students were so moved by the program they have started a letter writing campaign to active military.

Elementary School News

Brenda Lewiis, Principal

Time flies when you are having fun, and we must be having a blast at Eufaula Elementary because the first semester has flown by. Our little Ironheads have had a busy first few months. We have implemented many new programs, welcomed new staff, and as always our students have been busy mastering new skills.

Mrs. Newton has energized our elementary music program. The community's turnout for the annual Veteran's program was fantastic. Our fifth grade performances and student body participation ably honored our veterans. There were very few dry eyes in the audience at the completion of the program.

December brought many more musical treats with the Elementary Christmas Extravanzas. Mrs. Newton and her students delighted the audiences with three Christmas programs this year.

Keeping with the high energy level at the elementary, Mrs. Flinn's physical education classes have been moving with the "Move It" program. The third grade classes performed the "Cha-Cha" Slide on Dec. 18th at the half time of the high school girls' basketball game. The elementary will perform two more times at the basketball games before the season ends.



Mrs. Flinn with Elementary Physical Education Students

The winning Ironhead sports tradition continues. The third and fifth grade little league football teams carried home the Super Bowl trophies this season. The fourth and fifth grade basketball teams are enjoying winning seasons. special recognition is due to the fourth grade boys for winning first at the Kiowa, Webbers Falls, and Whitefield Basketball Tournaments.

Our elementary students are learning the value of being good citizens and giving back to the community. The first grade classes have adopted the senior citizen center this year. Each month they make and deliver holiday cards to Eufaula Senior Citizens. They also went Christmas caroling at the senior citizen center. The seniors and students all enjoy this ongoing project. Our third graders sang Christmas carols at the December Eufaula School Board meeting.

The needy of our community were also served by all the students and their families contributing to such worthy causes such as: *Toys for Tots*, *Backpack Buddies*, and *God's Helping Hands Food Drive*.

Once again our students have shone brightly across the county and state with their winning essays in area contests. Jaci Combs placed first in our local Veteran's Day Fifth Grade Essay Contest. We were privileged to hear her recite her essay at the Elementary Veteran's Day Program. Fifth grader, Journi James won first place statewide in the 8-10 age category of the Jim Thorpe Red Ribbon Contest. She will be honored in January at the Oklahoma State Capitol. Mrs. Goodwin's' first grade class was also chosen as one of a select few to decorate one of the state capitol Christmas trees.

Coming attractions for second semester include the first ever Eufaula 4th -8th District Spelling Bee in January and the Creek Nation Challenge Bowl in February. We are looking forward to a spectacular 2013. GO IRONHEADS!

We Like to Move It - Partnering with the Creek Nation

Kassie Flinn—Physical Education Teacher

I would like to take this opportunity to inform the community of the **Move It** program that we are involved with this year. Eufaula Elementary in partnership with the Creek Nation under the direction of Kimberlee Little and Taylor Thompson are implementing lifelong physical activity for all 3rd through 5th grade elementary students to help prevent Type II diabetes.

Once a week our students are introduced to games that promote exercise and healthy living. The students are also given an opportunity to earn coupons by doing any physical activity for 30 minutes outside of school.

Elementary Physical Education - Creek Nation, continued

Performing these activities with a parent or guardian doubles the coupons for up to 4 a day. These coupons are then turned in to their teachers and a winner from each class is drawn monthly. The winners may choose from Nike incentives such as footballs, basketballs, soccer balls and bags

This is a great opportunity for our school to be involved in a program that promotes lifetime physical activities that encourages parents and guardians to participate, too!

Kim Little has offered an incentive for those students who participated in performing the Cha Cha dance at basketball halftime.

She has agreed to give 10 *Move It* coupons for every performer to use for the December drawing. In addition, she will keep a list of those that participate and will do an extra drawing for them.

I recently attended a PE workshop where I learned new games, bought PE equipment at a reduced rate, and the Creek Nation bought equipment for us to use.

The Creek Nation is truly helping our students and we appreciate their support and the energy they have given to ensure our students develop a healthy lifestyle.

Thank You, Creek Nation, Kimberlee Little and Taylor Thompson for your support in helping to make this school a healthy one..

Middle School News

Chris Whelan, Principal

The 2012 fall semester at Eufaula Middle School was an exciting time with multitudes of activities for students. The fall schedule kicked off with fast pitch softball. Coach Stacy Helms led the Lady Copperheads to the most successful season in recent years as they won 6 games with only 3 losses. The inaugural season for Coach Larry Newton Jr. and his hard hitting style of football was next. The seventh and eight grade teams both shared success, ending the season with a record of 5 wins and 2 losses.

The Middle School Academic team Coached by Erin Weeks and Shelly Sharp won the OJABA 5th & 6th District Championship and will compete in the Regional Tournament on January 12 here at the MS. Team members are Payton Dawson (Captain), Sebastian Palmer, Cheyenne Fells, Cy Curtis, Briawna Logan and Tevin Rittenhouse.

The Eufaula Middle School Choir, directed by Cryse Burns competed in the Junior High All-State Choir completion in late October. Three students qualified for the second round completion, they were Lillyan Palmer, Hiyuce Wilson and Justin Weeks. After qualification, Hiyuce Wilson was named to the Oklahoma Junior High All-State Choir for her efforts.

Kenedee Rittenhouse, an 8th grade student at Eufaula Middle School, was honored this past summer by the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame as an up and coming Rising Star. In early September Kenedee was invited to perform in Brownsville, Tennessee at the Tina Turner Tribute Celebration in front of more than 100 people. Kenedee has been selected to audition for the fall 2013 season of the Voice where she will travel to Houston TX. Good Luck Kenedee we are rooting for you.

High School News

Garrett Davis, Principal

In August, 6 FCCLA officers were elected, they are Tyler Warrior-Pres., Jasmyne Hutton-Vice Pres., Skye Knott – Secretary Tres., Ninth grade Reps. Destiny Deere, Amanda McNatt and Corrie Medlock. FCCLA attended the NE II Leadership Fall Rally in September. In October, they raised \$500 for the Stephenson Cancer Research Center for Breast Cancer Research through pink t-shirt sales, bracelet and cookie sales. They also distributed “red ribbons” to all students and attended the Guts Church Nightmare. In November, they raised money for “Toys for Tots” and are preparing for District contests in December. The FCCLA sponsor is Lesa King.

The Eufaula High School Academic Team participates in the BMAC (Blue Mountain Academic Conference) with six other teams. The conference is a very tough conference with many teams making it to the Area and State Competitions every year. This year the varsity team placed 3rd in the conference. Members of the team included Kurstyn Abreo, Tim Winner, Ashton Mayle, Merrick McMorris, Rachael Marlar, and Reed Clark. Tim Winner was one of the top 8 scorers in the conference this year. The members of the JV team included Shelby Bevenue, Chris Oulds, Lloyd Oulds, and Riley Marlar. They had a great season and will be great assets to the varsity team next year. The academic sponsors are Michelle Cole and Jeanie Marlar.

Mr. Roger Thompson, who is a history teacher at EHS, will be taking another trip this May. This trip will be his annual trip overseas. Every summer Mr. Thompson leads a group of students and chaperons on a history based vacation. These trips have had great reviews and participation over the years. This year Mr. Thompson's group will be traveling to and touring London, Oxford University, Chartwell and the D-Day Beaches in May of 2014. At this time 22 people have signed up for this trip of a lifetime. If you are interested in attending please contact Mr. Thompson at EHS 689-2556.

The high school had four students selected for all-state choir. Those students are Mackenzie Dalton, Lloyd Oulds, Fayth Heflin and Teresa Dominic. This is Fayth Heflin's second consecutive year to make an all-state chorus. Teresa Dominic will receive the highest accolade and will be awarded with the 3-time OMEA High School All-State Chorus member. High school choir directors are Glenn Sizemore and Cryse Burns.

The high school is looking forward to great second semester in all of our academics and activities.

Eufaula FFA Chapter

David Turner and Kory Ridley

The Eufaula FFA Chapter is still experiencing great growth, more member participation, and plenty of success. Much of that success due to adding a second Ag Teacher to the Ag Program. Our new Ag Teacher, Kory Ridley, comes to

us from the Wellston FFA Chapter, but Ridley is originally from Haskell, Oklahoma. Mr. Ridley was a member of the Haskell FFA Chapter, attended Connors State College, and eventually graduated from Oklahoma State University in 2010.



Ridley joins David Turner who has taught Ag in Eufaula for five years. Turner is a product of the Eufaula FFA Chapter and Eufaula High School. After graduating from Eufaula High School in 1999, Turner served as a State FFA Officer while attending Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Turner graduated from OSU in 2004, and began his teaching career with the Owasso FFA Chapter. He taught in

Owasso for four years before returning home to take over his home chapter.

"The addition of Mr. Ridley as our second Ag Teacher opens so many doors for our members. We basically run two different programs within the same FFA Chapter. Together, we can offer our kids more opportunities, because we have different backgrounds and different areas of expertise. It has dramatically changed the face of our program. Because of the diversity offered, more kids are finding ways to be involved, which leads to a larger membership, which leads to a stronger, more successful program." Turner says. Many people in the community didn't realize that the Eufaula FFA Chapter was a two-teacher program throughout most of this past century. It wasn't until 1988 when the program dropped to a single teacher program, and Darrell Blackman ran the program by himself for the next twenty years. "We needed to be a two-teacher program again, and it is already paying off." Turner added. In the few competitive events that the FFA holds in the fall, the Eufaula FFA has already made its dominant presence known.

In the Shooting Sports Event, senior FFA member, Calahan Henry won the District Contest and advanced to the State Contest where he finished 13th overall. And in the Opening/Closing Ceremonies (OCC) Contest the Eufaula FFA Teams finished 1st and 2nd at the Area Contest and advanced on the State Contest.

The Eufaula FFA Chapter has approximately 120 student-members, and the enrollment is projected to reach 150 members next year. That would make the Eufaula FFA Chapter among the largest chapters in the state.

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