

## Argonia U.S.D. \#359 <br> February, 2016 Newsletter

High School Office 620-435-6611


2016 Homecoming Candidates
Back Row: King Candidates Brice Sellers, Jason Hess, and Kolten Koerner
Front Row: Queen Candidates Amber Jones, Camilla Tabasso and Ann-Sophie Schneck

## 2016 WINTER HOMECOMING ON FEBRUARY 12TH

The 2016 Argonia High School Winter Homecoming Ceremony will take place on Friday, February 12th at the half-time of the varsity boys game. Argonia will host Flinthills.

Homecoming week gets started on Monday, February 8th. Spirit days are as follows:

|  | High School |
| :--- | :--- |
| Monday | Scrabble Day |
| Tuesday | Western Day |
| Wednesday | Twin Day |
| Thursday | Dress To Impress Day |
| Friday | Proud To Be A Raider Day |

Elementary School<br>Neon Bright Day<br>Movie Character Day<br>Pajama Day<br>Dress To Impress Day<br>Proud To Be A Raider Day

The high school students will compete in a dodgeball tournament Friday afternoon, followed by a pep rally. Please come out and support them on the 12th.

## JANUARY RAIDERS OF THE MONTH

by Bob Almanza


2015-16 STUCO

AHS STUCO became the next "Raider of the Month" for January, 2016. The Activities/Athletics Department of Argonia High School has decided to recognize one student (or group) a month who has demonstrated exceptional pride and integrity while competing in athletics or activities. Students are nominated by coaches and sponsors and, once a month, a "Raider of the Month" is chosen.

STUCO was chosen for the month of January after being nominated by Sue Randall. She had this to say about STUCO:
"I would like to nominate the AHS Student Council and their sponsor, Jon Mead, for the Raider of the Month award.

STUCO came to my aid after I mentioned to Mr. Mead how many Angel Tree gifts still needed to be purchased from the trees at the bank and city building. Instead of just helping to donate some money to help a few kids, they took the cards for me and went shopping at Wal-Mart with money that I had which had been donated from the community, so that all of the kids would have something under the tree for them Christmas morning. They shopped for over 20 gifts in less than a half hour. They were respectful to others in the store and when we checked out at the cash register. They had excellent ideas for the gifts and even found a proper gift bag to put it in. I was so thankful that I did not have to do all that shopping on my own!

I really appreciated that Mr. Mead took them over and back in the mini bus and even taking them out for ice cream afterwards. They deserve to be recognized for their good deed!"

The "Raider of the Month" is part of a renewed effort to build school pride. The student (or group) selected has their picture on a bulletin board along with comments from the coach or sponsor who submitted the nomination. Look for a new student next month!!


## FEBRUARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

| Date | Event | Time |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| February 01 | JH Basketball vs. Flinthills @ Home | TBD |
|  | Argonia Skate Night @ Harper | 6:00-8:00pm |
| February 02 | K.A.Y. Unit Conference | 8:30am |
|  | HS Basketball vs. Udall @ Home Hearing Screenings | TBD |
| February 04 | HS Regional Scholars Bowl @ Caldwell |  |
|  | JH Basketball SCBL League Tournament. - Play-in Games @ Udall | TBD |
| February 05 | Parents As Teachers Play Group | 10:00-11:00am |
|  | Progress Reports Due |  |
|  | HS Basketball @ Cedar Vale/Dexter | TBD |
| February 06 | ACT @ AHS | 7:30am |
|  | JH Basketball SCBL League Tournament | TBD |
|  | HS Music - Piano - Regional Festival | TBD |
| February 08 | JH Scholars Bowl @ Oxford | 4:30pm |
|  | NHS Induction Ceremony | 6:15pm |
|  | Board of Education Meeting | 7:00pm |
| February 09 | HS Basketball @ South Haven | TBD |
| February 10 | Early Dismissal | 12:35pm |
| February 11 | Spring Picture Day - Individual \& Class Pictures |  |
|  | JH Basketball SCBL League Tournament | TBD |
|  | Financial Aid Night | 6:00-8:00pm |
| February 12 | HS Basketball vs. Flinthills @ Home | TBD |
|  | Homecoming Ceremony @ half of boys varsity game |  |
| February 13 | Forensics Meet @ Central | 8:00am |
|  | JH Basketball SCBL League Tournament | TBD |
|  | HS State Scholars Bowl | TBD |
| February 15 | NO SCHOOL - Teacher Workday | 8:00am-12:00pm |
|  | Parent/Teacher Conferences | 1:00-8:00pm |
| February 16 | HS Basketball @ Oxford | TBD |
|  | Hearing Rechecks |  |
| February 18 | JH Math Relay @ Caldwell | 4:45pm |
| February 19 | HS Basketball @ Central Burden | TBD |
| February 20 | HS Music - Piano - State Festival | TBD |
| February 22 | JH Scholar's Bowl @ South Haven | 4:30pm |
| February 23 | HS Basketball vs. Wichita Home School @ Home | TBD |
|  | Parent's Night |  |
| February 24 | Parents As Teachers - Books and Babies | 5:00pm |
| February 25 | Forensics Meet @ Oxford | 4:00pm |
| February 25 | JH Scholars Bowl @ Caldwell | 4:30pm |
| February 26 | No School - Comp Day |  |
| February 29 | HS Basketball - Sub-State Basketball Tournament @ Caldwell | TBD |

## 2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

The 2016 Legislative Session began on Monday, January 11. This is an outline of what to expect from the session in the coming months:
January: Session begins second Monday; bill introductions by individuals and committees, deadline except for exempt committees early February; Governor's budget message first week.

February: Committee hearings; action by committees to recommend bills; deadline for most bills to pass house of origin in early March; budget committee and subcommittees begin recommendations.

March: Hearings for bills in committees of second house; deadline for most bills to pass second house; budget committees assemble "mega bill" on state budget for action by full House and Senate; conference committees to resolve differences in bills begin.
April: Conference committees continue; first adjournment (usually first weekend); revised consensus revenue estimates released; budget committee returns to prepare adjustments (usually in the "omnibus" bill); reconvenes for "veto" session (usually last Wednesday), conference committees continue.
May: Adjournment of veto session (usually within one or two weeks), final "sine die" adjournment of session. June-July: Legislative Coordinating Council

One bill to be aware of right now is HB $\mathbf{2 5 0 4}$ School District Realignment
This bill requires the Kansas State Board of Education to oversee redesign of districts by July 1,2017 ; taking effect one year later.
The bill requires every county with 10,000 or fewer students to be a single district. Counties with over 10,000 must have at least 1,500 students per district. The numbers are based on public school district students who are residents of the county.
There is no provision or process of determining the new school board for the newly formed districts.

Of the 286 existing districts, only 50 would remain unaffected. Kansas would go from 286 to 132 districts. The average district size in Kansas would go from 1,719 students to 3,724 student.

All districts in Sumner County would become part of Wellington USD 353. This would include the districts of Argonia, Belle Plaine, Caldwell, Conway Springs, Oxford, and South Haven. This newly formed district would have approximately 3,897 students.

Use this web link to find more detailed information about the realignment.
https://www.kasb.org/assets/Publications/Research/HB2504EstimatedImpact.pdf

## 2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE continued

Please contact your legislators today and let them know how you feel about this bill and the impact it would have on our students and our community. Below are some tips for sending effective email messages, making phone calls, and writing letters. Also provided is the contact information for the legislators in our area.

Effective Emails - Stress that you are a constituent in the subject line, in the introduction or in your greeting. - If your e-mail refers to a specific bill or amendment, identify it in the subject line ("Constituent Who Supports HBxxxx or SBxx" or "Support Education Funding in Budget Resolution"). • Personalize the e-mail by including the name of your local school or school district and explain how the policy will affect your community. • State your opinion and your specific request within the first or second sentence. • Avoid confusing education jargon. $\bullet$ Always demonstrate respect and courtesy. • Include your address and contact information. - Provide links to one or two articles that relate to the issue or to the KASB Legislative Agenda or position statement on the issue. - If you have any personal association with policy makers, remind them. Nothing is more effective in getting a policy maker's attention.

Effective Phone Calls • Before you call, jot down a few talking points. Always be prepared to leave a voice mail message if necessary. • When you telephone a U.S. legislator's office, ask to speak with the legislative aide responsible for covering education issues. • For state offices you will generally reach an office assistant or intern and should be able to reach your legislator personally. - Leave a clear message, including your name and address, with the person who answers the phone. You might begin by saying, "I'm Jane Educator calling from Anytown, and I'd like to leave a message for Congressman Smith." • State the issue you are calling about and what you want your representative to do. $\bullet$ Legislative offices are very busy - be as brief as possible. • A follow-up e-mail is a good opportunity to restate your position and include additional materials and say thank you. It also helps establish a relationship with the office.

Effective Letters -When you need to communicate your stance to decision makers, the media or other community members, position papers and policy briefs can be useful. One or two well written pages can also serve as a reminder of your personal visit with the legislator, or as a source of data and information in future discussions. The emphasis should be on factual information and comment presented in an easy to read format.

- State your position up front.
- Clearly communicate what you want done.
- Provide the background and context of the education issue.
- Edit carefully and limit to one to two pages.
- Identify your group and why the position is important to you.
- Include your name and contact information.


## Legislative Contact Information



Senator Steve Abrams, District 32
Capitol Office Room: 224-E

Phone: 785-296-7381

Email: steve.abrams@senate.ks.gov or sabrams@hit.net


Representative Kyle Hoffman, District 116

Capitol Office Room: 481-W

Phone: 785-296-7643

Email: kyle.hoffman@house.ks.gov or kyle@kylehoffman.net

Mail Letters to: State Capitol

300 SW 10th Ave.

Legislator's Name and Capitol Office Room
Topeka, KS 66612

Follow the legislative session online at www.kslegislature.org


## Argonia Boys and Girls Soccer Sign-up

Pre-K thru 6 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ grade
JH/HS 3 vs 3

## RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO EITHER SCHOOL OFFICE BY Friday, February 19, 2016

No fee if signed up by February 19
$\$ 25.00$ late fee after February 19-No Exceptions!!
Out of town player fee - $\$ 25.00$
NAME $\qquad$ BIRTHDATE $\qquad$
Age as of August 31, 2015 $\qquad$ Mor $\mathbf{F}$ $\qquad$
(Children must by four years of age by August 31, 2015 to be eligible to play)
$\qquad$
PHONE
GRADE $\qquad$ Shirt Size $\qquad$

- Each player must have shin guards by the first practice
- There will be a 3 vs 3 league for JH and HS students. The practices/games will not interfere with school sports.
- Teams will be selected by a draft process to help ensure equality and fairness.
- Habitual absences from scheduled practices may result in your child not being allowed to suit up for the next ball game. Concerns should be taken directly to the Recreation Commission Board.


## WE NEED COACHES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

If you are interested in coaching, please sign
Phone Number $\qquad$
For questions, please call Brian Fitch 435-6123

# INDIAN BOYS BASKETBALL 

by Coach Wayne Vineyard

The Indians would open the new year with a home game against South Haven. After a hard fought half the score was tied 9-9. The boys would come out of half and score 16 points in the second half but also gave up 16 points resulting in another tie at the end of regulation. We would go into overtime and get outscored 6-3 to lose the game by a score of 28-31. Scoring for the Indians were, Fisher 9, Dickerson 6, Pierce 3, Topinka 3, Phillips 3, Brown 2, and Dewlen 2.

Next we would host a good Udall team. The Indians could not handle Udall's press, resulting in a 59-12 loss. Scoring were, Fisher 4, Love 6, Dickerson 2.

The Indians would then travel to Central to take on the Raiders. Going into half the Indians were leading 12-9. The Indians came out at half playing solid defense holding the Raiders to just 2 points in the third quarter and scoring 10. We would lead $24-11$ heading into the fourth. After a very physical and exhausting game the Indians held onto the lead defeating Central 33-23 breaking a 2 year losing streak. Scoring were, Fisher 6, Love 12, Pierce 8, Dickerson 7.

We would then travel to play a very good Caldwell team and lose by a score of 43-7. Scoring were Love 4, Dickerson 1, Dewlen 2. The Indians will finish up the season traveling to Attica, Oxford, and then hosting Flinthills.

## RAIDER BOYS BASKETBALL

by Coach Bob Almanza

The Argonia Raiders now stand at 8-4 after an eventful month of January. They opened the new year by beating West Elk to go 1-0 in league play. They traveled to Howard and played a solid game. The Raiders were led in scoring by Kolten Koerner, who scored 16. Trevor Pierce and Seth Hemberger added 12 a piece in the win.

The Raiders next played Central Burden. Unfortunately, the Raiders did not play well. Although AHS made a nice comeback after trailing in the first half, it was not enough. Central Burden made nine three pointers in securing the win.

The Raiders then opened up the SCBL Tourney by playing West Elk. Again, the Raiders struggled, as the Patriots proved too strong inside. West Elk beat the Raiders in the first round game, sending AHS to the loser's bracket. Fortunately, the Raiders regrouped and won the next two games in the tourney. The Raiders first played Oxford, beating them 48-37. Evan Dolley led the Raiders in that win, scoring 20 points. AHS next played Cedar Vale/Dexter in the $5^{\text {th }} / 6^{\text {th }}$ place game. The Raiders played extremely well, building a 10 point lead. The Spartans, however, got hot from the three point line in the third quarter, making 5 three pointers. Fortunately, the Raiders came back strong in the fourth quarter, ultimately winning 54-51. Kolten Koerner scored 16 points to lead the Raiders, while Evan Dolley tossed in 15 points, and Seth Hemberger chipped in 13 points.

The Raiders got back to playing regular season league play by playing Caldwell. The Raiders, beating Caldwell 54-42, played one of their best games of the season. Seth Hemberger had one of his best games as a Raider, scoring 24 points. Evan Dolley scored 16 points, while Kolten Koerner chipped in 9 points.

The Raiders now stand 2-1 in league play, and 8-4 overall.

## LADY RAIDER BASKETBALL

by Coach Dixie Brewster

The AHS Lady Raiders are getting ready to win more games! Extra effort, focus and preparation will pay off in the long run for this team, but it's still hard when the last 3 games have been lost by 4 or fewer points. With 4 wins and 9 losses, the Lady Raiders are not satisfied and will continue to compete with a more focused attention on the responsibility that each player has on the team.

The fifth place game on January 23 against Central Burden, 31-35, found the Lady Raiders shooting $41 \%$ on 9 of 22 free throws. We outscored Central 17-4 in the third quarter, but it wasn't enough as the game came down to the wire with a number of unsuccessful opportunities in the final seconds. We will play Central Burden again on February $19^{\text {th }}$ and we are looking forward to a rematch!

Beating West Elk 55-45 was a SCBL Tournament Game that found Argonia girls ready to play and determined to avenge an earlier loss in Howard. Seven Lady Raiders scored and the team connected on 12 of 19 free-throws. 5-three point baskets were made. (Alyssa Hammond, Baylee Booker, Kaylee Lacey and Jesse Tracy-2) Our pressure defense has improved and it was effective against the Patriots.

The first round game in the tournament was against Sedan. The first half of play was intense and we played well. We struggled to connect on our shots, but we held Sedan to 26 first half points. They are averaging over 60 points a game. We were within 9 at half-time, 17-26, but our second half was not what we had hoped and we lost 30-52.

Our other win in the tournament came against CV/Dexter 60-41. This was played at Oxford as a playin game and we shot the ball well! Scoring for AHS: A. Hammond 2, Booker 13, Thompson 8, Vineyard 21, C. Hammond 4, Rhea 1, Lacey 2, Fitch 2, and Tracy 7. Our defensive efforts began to improve throughout this game and have continued to look better from this point forward.

Last season our team took $7^{\text {th }}$ place in the SCBL Tournament and this year we did improve on that by finishing $6^{\text {th }}$. Our team goal is to be playing in the Championship Game next year as we look ahead to our future. We are not where we want to be, but excited for the experience and we will have everyone back next season.
Playing Caldwell, at home, was an exciting game, but the Lady Raiders were disheartened when Caldwell hit a last-second shot to win the game 32-29. The game was tied with less than 7 seconds and the only 3-point basket made by Caldwell was that last-second shot. Luck was on their side.

The last half of the season begins now, and we look to finish much stronger than we began. We appreciate the support we have been shown and look forward to seeing you all at the games!!!

## MINI HEALTH FAIR FOR STAFF

by Christine Short
The Wellness Committee for USD 359 put on a Mini Health Fair for staff on Wednesday, January $13^{\text {th }}$. The staff was divided into three groups and sent to different stations.

One station had chair massages being given by Terry Asmussen, while staff collected goodie-bags and snacked on healthy foods such as fruit, vegetables, hummus, and crackers. The goodie-bags consisted of a stress ball, Kleenexes, Chap Stick, an Emergen-C packet, and anti-bacterial hand wipes.

The next station was led by Jan Harding, showing staff how to do dynamic stretching, which could also be turned into an aerobic exercise. They also tested their balance on a bosu ball. Wendy Booker was on hand with a machine that could calculate your BMI.

The third station was led by fellow staffer Natalie Shirley, doing yoga stretches and relaxation poses. Staff could also have their blood pressure taken by Richelle Greene while here.

Staff really enjoyed everything and wrapped up the day by signing up for a "Friendly Building Competition." The Elementary and High School staff will be trying to beat each other in exercise miles from January $25^{\text {th }}$ to April $22^{\text {nd }}$. They've put in money, and whichever building is the winner gets to take the cash and go do something fun with it!


## ARGONIA PTO - SPECIAL DONATION CAMPAIGN FOR BUILDING AND GROUNDS RENOVATION PROJECTS

The Argonia PTO has decided to start a special donation campaign to try and raise funds for building and grounds renovation projects for our schools. Keeping safety in mind for our students, staff, and community we have decided our first priority is replacement of the sidewalk in front of the Elementary School. We have applied for several grants to help offset the approximately $\$ 8000$ cost of this project and have recruited several local volunteers to help with labor. The PTO would love to see this project completed during the 2015-2016 school year but we need your help to make this happen. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation, you may do so at the Elementary School Office or by mail to Argonia PTO, 202 E Allen, Argonia, KS 67004. Any money raised in excess of the sidewalk project will be held in a special account for other building and ground renovation projects. Also, if you would like to be on a list of volunteers to help with labor, please let us know. If you have any questions, please contact Melinda McCurley at 620-435-6782 or mdmccurley@hotmail.com or Bill Mock at 618-292-2542 or bkmock95@yahoo.com.


## BOX TOPS NEEDED!!!!!

The Elementary students are collecting box tops through February 16th for a contest. If they collect over 4,000 by the 16th they will be treated to a movie and popcorn in the Gym. So bring your box tops to the Elementary office to support Argonia students.


## POP TAB FUNDRAISER

## HELP RAISE MONEY FOR ARGONIA PTO!!!!!!!



FYI: 1,472 Pop Tabs $=1$ pound

Collecting pop tabs is a great way to teach kids about philanthropy and the importance of recycling, and raise funds to help OUR SCHOOL.

Aluminum pull-tab rings can be found on:

- soda/beverage cans
- baby foods
- canned fruits/veggies
- some soup cans

COLLECTION BUCKETS WILL BE PLACED IN EACH OF THE CLASSROOMS AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL BE HAVING A CONTEST TO SEE WHICH CLASS CAN COLLECT THE MOST TABS SO START POPPING THOSE TABS.
THE WINNING CLASS WILL RECEIVE A PIZZA PARTY COURTESY OF PTO!!!
*THE CONTEST DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO MARCH 31, 2016*

EACH POP TAB COUNTS!!!!!!!

If you have a business and would be willing to keep a bucket for our collection of pop tabs please contact the Elementary School and we will get one to you.

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 <br> Breakfast: Cereal, Yogurt or String Cheese, Juice, Fruit Cup, Milk <br> Lunch: Sweet \& Sour Chicken Nuggets | 2 <br> Breakfast: Pancakes or Cereal, Juice, Fruit Cup, Milk <br> Lunch: Super Nacho | 3 <br> Breakfast: Cereal, Yogurt or String Cheese, Juice, Fruit Cup, Milk <br> Lunch: Corndog | 4 <br> Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza or Cereal, Juice, Fruit Cup, Milk <br> Lunch: Pulled Pork Sandwich | 5 <br> Breakfast: Cereal, Yogurt or String Cheese, Juice, Fruit Cup, Milk <br> Lunch: Rock \& Roll Beef Wrap |
| 8 <br> Breakfast: Cereal, Yogurt or String Cheese, Juice, Fruit Cup, Milk <br> Lunch: Pig-in-a-Blanket | 9 <br> Breakfast: French Toast Sticks or Cereal, Juice, Fruit Cup, Milk <br> Lunch: Chicken Wrap | 10 <br> Breakfast: Cereal, Yogurt or String Cheese, Juice, Fruit Cup, Milk <br> Lunch: Spaghetti w/ Plain Sauce | 11 <br> Breakfast: Biscuits \& Gravy or Cereal, Juice, Fruit Cup, Milk <br> Lunch: Taco Salad | 12 <br> Breakfast: Cereal, Yogurt or String Cheese, Juice, Fruit Cup, Milk <br> Lunch: Chicken \& Noodles or Fish |
| 15 <br> No School | 16 <br> Breakfast: Pancakes or Cereal, Juice, Fruit Cup, Milk <br> Lunch: Stromboli Squares | 17 <br> Breakfast: Cereal, Yogurt or String Cheese, Juice, Fruit Cup, Milk <br> Lunch: BBQ Beef-on-aBun | 18 <br> Breakfast: Breakfast Pizza or Cereal, Juice, Fruit Cup, Milk <br> Lunch: Turkey \& Cheese Sub Sandwich | 19 <br> Breakfast: Cereal, Yogurt or String Cheese, Juice, Fruit Cup, Milk <br> Lunch: Country Style Beef Patty or Fish |
| 22 <br> Breakfast: Cereal, Yogurt or String Cheese, Juice, Fruit Cup, Milk <br> Lunch: Chicken Tetrazzini | 23 <br> Breakfast: French Toast Sticks or Cereal, Juice, Fruit Cup, Milk <br> Lunch: Hamburger-on-a -Bun | 24 <br> Breakfast: Cereal Yogurt or String Cheese, Juice, Fruit Cup, Milk <br> Lunch: Beef \& Noodles | 25 <br> Breakfast: Biscuits \& Gravy or Cereal, Juice, Fruit Cup, Milk <br> Lunch: Baked Chicken Drumsticks | $26$ <br> No School |
| 29 <br> Breakfast: Cereal, Yogurt or String Cheese, Juice, Fruit Cup, Milk <br> Lunch: Mini Meatball Sub |  |  |  |  |



Argonia, Kansas Permit No. 2


