



Argonia U.S.D. #359 January 2018 Newsletter

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January is School Board Recognition Month



The men and women serving Argonia USD 359 are:
President Brian Fitch (3 years of service)
Vice-President Shane Morrison (2 years of service)
Rick Nafziger (33 years of service)
Scott Greenwood (25 years of service)
Joe Allen (15 years of service)
Sarah Vineyard (9 years of service)
Dave Gaddie (7 years of service)

January 2018 is School Board Recognition Month, a reminder of the incredible service and selfless time given by seven individuals in our community for the betterment of our schools. The theme this year is "Imagining the Future." We all have hopes and dreams for each child in our community to have a successful future. It is our school board's responsibility to develop the strategic plan that will lead us to that future. School board members in Argonia USD 359 develop policies and make difficult decisions that help shape the future of our education system.

This January, the staff and students of our district ask all members of the community to take a moment and thank a school board member. Thank them for volunteering their time, for fulfilling this very important civic responsibility, and for advocating on behalf of every child.

Building our Future



By:
Katrina Love

The Argonaires were invited to KFDI 101.3 to bring "Christmas cheer" and some "real" talent to JJ and Tiny, during this holiday season. The kids had a blast being able to share their Christmas melodies and showing everyone their top-notch vocal skills, and oh, what a wonderful job they did! We are very proud of the Argonaires, and how they represented small town Argonia. Great job everyone and a special thanks to Natalie Shirley for working with these kids. Thank you for all you do!



PTO MEETING

THE NEXT PTO MEETING WILL BE HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24TH**
AT **7:00 PM** IN THE ELEMENTARY CAFETERIA.
WE WILL BE MAKING PLANS FOR THE UPCOMING VALENTINE'S DAY BINGO.
WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PTO AND WHAT YOU
CAN DO TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS!



Congratulations!
The Lady Raiders were the
Border Queen Tournament
Champions on December 9th.

Baylee Booker and
Cora Vineyard were named to
the all-tournament team.



Argonia Elementary is Awarded a Healthy Habits for Life Grant by BCBS of KS

Recognizing that school is where children spend most of their daily lives – making it an ideal place to encourage healthy habits – the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Foundation is sending \$148,757.65 in Healthy Habits for Life grants to schools in 65 Kansas counties. The 154 separate grants will help school nurses, teachers and administrators fund programs or activities in 2018 aimed at helping thousands of children reduce their cardiovascular risk, increase their physical activity, or learn healthy eating habits.

"Healthy Habits for Life was the first major grant program developed by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Foundation and, 12 years later, it still fills an existing need in helping curb childhood obesity rates in Kansas," said Marlou Wegener, chief operating officer of the BCBSKS Foundation. "The Foundation's board of directors remains committed to funding at-school health programs that a teacher or staff member might not otherwise be able to deliver due to tight budgets.

"It is our nurses, teachers and administrators who are on the front line of our collective efforts to slow the childhood obesity epidemic in Kansas," she said. "It is through their dedication that we have hope that this generation of Kansas children will learn more than reading, writing and arithmetic at school; we have hope that they also will learn the life-long healthy habits that will lead them to healthy adulthood and brighter futures."

Argonia Elementary School was Awarded a \$1,000 grant for their Family Fun Night events. These events promote healthy habits such as physical activity, nutrition education, and healthy eating for the participating families. The first event was the Thankful Feast held in November. Two more events are planned for this school year and one is planned for next August. We will be having our Chinese New Year on Thursday, February 15th and our Quattro de Mayo on Friday, May 4th.

Finishing Up the Fall

By:
Kayla Paxson



The Sixth Graders have been busy this fall semester. With a new building and new opportunities to try out, the students have taken advantage of all the new, exciting things to participate in and learn, including sports and other activities. In September, the class dove into the book, Wonder by R.J. Palacio, about a boy with facial deformities that goes to school for the first time. In science, we also talked about genetics and mutations, so it was easy to make the connection between what was in the book and real life. We also focused on the motto - "When you have the

choice between being right or being kind, choose kind."

October provided us with a whole different experience during the Global Read Aloud. Our class, along with hundreds of classes around the world, focused on the novel, A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park. It was a moving and emotional story about the real-life experience of Salva Dut and thousands of other Sudanese boys escaping the horrors of the war in Sudan. Beth Schafers, an Argonia alum, also visited the classroom as a guest speaker to talk about her experience in Uganda, the country just south of Sudan. Many of the things she mentioned about her trip were also a part of the book we read. The importance of the Nile River was also a great connection into our Ancient Egypt unit in Social Studies. We also had the opportunity during the Global Read Aloud to do a video conference Skype with classrooms from Canada and North Carolina to guess where each classroom was located and to discuss the book. We ended the unit with a documentary entitled, God Grew Tired of Us, which explores the experiences of several different "Lost Boys" as they traveled from war-torn Sudan and Kenya to the United States. The students were astonished to find out that life in the United States was not all fun and games. They couldn't believe that life in the United States was so hard that the boys actually wanted to return to Africa.

To finish up the semester, the students made paper Mache' baskets, painted them for the holidays, and stuffed them with goodies and cards. Then, we delivered them to the Manor for the Senior Citizens of Argonia to enjoy to spread a little cheer. We also had the chance to take a field trip to Wichita on the last day of the semester before finals. In the morning, students got the chance to explore ancient civilizations, mummies, art, pottery, and so much more at the Museum of World Treasures. Then, we traveled to the Warren West Theater to catch a showing of the new movie adaptation of the book Wonder that we read back in September. After the movie, the students asked me how many times I cried. I held it together until the end, but the students were so moved during the movie that many of them said they cried many times throughout. So, it must have been good! We highly recommend both the novel and the movie.

We're very excited to start the new year with a fresh start and the chance to learn more new things in the second semester. We hope that you and your family had a wonderful winter break and we can't wait to share with you what we do in the spring semester.

Argonia USD 359 has several items for sale. There are 21 sets of lights that came out of the high school gym and 18 desks that are no longer being used. All items will be sold in “as is” condition. Please bid on each item individually. To see the items before placing a bid, contact Wayne Vineyard at the bus barn 435-6619.

Sealed bids will be due in the district office by 4:00 PM on Monday, February 12th.

