



**Fort Scott  
High School**

*Parent  
Newsletter*

**December-January-  
February**

**2011-2012**





From the Principal  
.....Bob Beckham

I want to take this opportunity to explain two programs we receive numerous questions about here at Ft. Scott High School, Recovery Seminar and Reward Seminar.

#### **Recovery Seminar**

Recovery seminar is a program designed to help ensure that students complete the coursework necessary to fulfill the requirements of the specific classes in which they are enrolled. Time spent in Recovery Seminar may be dedicated to make up assignments or exercises, additional instruction, or other necessary activities. Students will have a five-day window in which to complete the required work for each course. A student's placement in the program will be arranged through a contract between the referring teacher and the student in need. This contract will serve as a binding agreement that the student will complete the required assignments as stipulated by the referring teacher.

A student who has signed a contract but who fails to complete the required work within a five-day window will be classified as a STUDENT NOT IN GOOD STANDING. As long as a student remains classified as a STUDENT NOT IN GOOD STANDING, he or she will be prohibited from attending or participating in any extracurricular school activities.

It is our belief that all assignments are relevant to academic success. This program will enable participating students to succeed at their highest potential.

#### **Reward Seminar**

Each quarter students may earn the privilege of being excused from seminar at 11:20 a.m. In order to obtain this exemption, students must meet the following criteria during the previous nine weeks:

1. Must have A's or B's in all classes.
2. Must have no more than two absences per block. A third absence in any one block will void the reward/incentive.
3. Must have no discipline referrals (this includes detentions, ISS, OSS, cell phone policy violations, as well as any referrals for misconduct at off-campus school-related activities).
4. Students must continue to meet the above criteria throughout the period or they may lose the privilege.

(continued on page 6)



## Christmas Break December 21-January 2

Kudos to everyone involved with the fall play, *The Wizard of Oz!*

Many people were involved: students, faculty and community members. A special thank you to Mrs. LaRoche whose direction pulled it all together!

### SEATBELTS ARE FOR EVERYONE (S.A.F.E.)!

The FSHS S.A.F.E. Team took the first unannounced seatbelt survey on October 11 and 12. The results of the survey showed that 82% of our student body, faculty, and parents are buckling up. At the end of last year the percentage was 87%, which put us 7th best in the State for seatbelt use. Plans are already being made to provide more seatbelt education to raise the percentage even higher than last year's. Vince and Larry will be back again this year.

Another interesting note: This year, the Kansas Department of Traffic Safety asked the Fort Scott S.A.F.E. Team to go a bit farther with the survey forms and asked the team to document distracted driving stats. In addition to looking for seatbelt use, this year the team looked for cell phone use, texting use, or other distracted driving. The team compiled the following statistics: 1.55% of the people were on the phone. 0.47% were texting. 5.28% were distracted in some other way. Encouragingly, 92.7% weren't distracted.

Since the S.A.F.E. Program was established last year, there have been four serious accidents involving FSHS teens. In each accident, ALL DRIVERS AND PASSENGERS WERE BUCKLED UP AND NO MAJOR INJURIES WERE REPORTED!!!

The team bids a fond farewell to former team members who graduated last May: Matt Carrillo, Jade Weeter, Jaret Thorpe, and Colton Grillot. New S.A.F.E. team members who replaced the graduating seniors are Ackland Milton, Michelle Buntain, Ashton Mason, Chris Carrillo, Zack Denton, and Jacob Bradbury. They join Cameron Woodring, Hannah Messer, Chalia Gray, Bryce Hinde, Hannah Fredericksen, Michael Nighswonger, Dakota Crumby, Dale Savage, and Katie Jo Hull.

The team is looking forward to another awesome year and remind you to always BUCKLE UP!

Look throughout this newsletter for informational facts regarding texting and driving.

SRO and FSHS S.A.F.E. Coordinator Toby Nighswonger

Moving? Changing phone numbers? Changing names? Has the guardianship of your child changed? Please notify the high school office (620-223-0600) to keep your student's records updated.



### Driver Education

Students who are at least age 14 by April 1, 2012 may sign up for driver education from February 20, 2012 through March 16, 2012 at the high school office Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:15 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. A fee of \$2.00 will be collected when a student registers for the course. An additional \$110 (\$130 for out-of-district students) will be due by May 1, 2012. There are no refunds after this date.

All USD 234 grounds are tobacco-free. Tobacco use of any kind is prohibited on **ALL** school and facility grounds 24 hours, 7 days a week.



### Peterson Scholarship

Students graduating in 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009 may pick up applications for the Peterson Scholarship in the high school office beginning January 3, 2012. Applications are due back by April 15, 2012.

### *Want to know what's going on in Tiger Land?*

You can receive information on FSHS events either by email or through text messages.

If you wish to find out via email, go to [www.new.schoolnotes.com](http://www.new.schoolnotes.com). Enter the Fort Scott zip code, 66701. Click on *Larry Fink*. Click on *Notify me*. Fill in requested information to have a link sent directly to your email every time the page is updated.

To receive information via text message, go to [www.usd234.org](http://www.usd234.org). Click on *Tiger Alerts*. Fill in the information towards the bottom of the page and choose which schools you would like to receive text messages from. When you submit, a text will be sent to your phone to authorize. Enter this code: Done



## INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURE

When inclement weather is predicted, the district will test the safety of roads within the district boundaries. Pending input from certain district personnel concerning the condition of the roads, the superintendent will evaluate the facts and formulate a plan of action. If school is to be held, an announcement will not be made. If a decision to dismiss school is made, it will be announced at 6:00 a.m. via media listed below. Patrons will also be notified via Textcaster.

### Radio Stations:

KMDO-KOMB 1600 AM/103.9FM - initial outlet to release information.

KKOW FM 96.9

KNEM AM 1240 (Nevada)

### Television Stations:

KOAM – Channel 7

KSN – Channel 10

Buses may run one hour later on some days. This information will be given at the same time as school closings. Buses may bring students home early if a storm hits during the day. The radio stations will broadcast the information as soon as possible. Students may not have a chance to call parents before the buses leave. **NOTE:** The decision to close school will not be made until 6:00 a.m. Phone calls to school officials before that time will not be of much help to you. Tuning in to the local radio stations will be the quickest way to get the information.

TEXTING Fact # 1 - Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. When traveling at 55mph, that's enough time to cover the length of a football field. (2009, VTTI)



From the Principal, page 2, continued:

- a. Example: Grade falls below A or B.
  - b. Example: Absences exceed more than two in any block.
  - c. Example: Student receives discipline referral.
  5. Students who earn the exemption may elect to stay in school during seminar in order to attend clubs or activities.
  6. Students may also elect to stay in school during seminar in order to receive academic assistance from teachers.
  7. Students who do elect to stay in school during seminar will be required to stay for the entire seminar period (10:52-11:34).
  8. Students may be required to attend special activities or meetings during seminar. On such days, the exemption will be canceled.
  9. Parents or legal guardians must provide written permission for students to exercise this exemption. (Forms are available in the office.)
  10. A teacher may require that a student attend seminar in order to make up a test or assignment.
  11. When students are excused at 11:20, they are to exit the building immediately for lunch. If they are unable to leave because they lack transportation, they must report immediately to the commons area for lunch.
- Please call if you have any questions regarding these two programs (223-0600).

The FSHS Activities Calendar is available at [www.usd234.org](http://www.usd234.org). Click on Fort Scott High School. Please be advised that these calendars are subject to change at any time.

Science Club sponsored a Pumpkin Decorating Contest in October.

Congratulations to the winners!

First Place - \$20 - Jessica Milburn  
and Andi Parsons

Second Place - \$10 - Chase Hittle

Third Place - \$5 - Taylor Watkins.



TEXTING Fact # 2 - A texting driver is **23 times** more likely to get into an accident than a non-texting driver. (2009, VTTI)

## *All SEK Choir Honors Announced*



On Saturday, November 5, approximately 500 students auditioned for positions in the Southeast Kansas Honor Choir.

Students prepared three advanced choral works, sang individually for a panel of three judges, and were scored on their singing. Approximately 35 students per part were chosen to perform at that Honor Choir. Nineteen Fort

Scott High School students were selected for the choir: Rebecca Page and Taylor Watkins, soprano; Kristen Allen, Jessica Combs, Emily Martin, Alexis Richling, and Brysen Russell, alto; Nick Allen, Caleb Clay, Justin Eichenberger,

Tim Higgins, and Tyler Parker, tenor; Christopher Allen, Mark Garner, Jesse Guerrero, Ackland Milton, Wyatt Stark, and Joshua Woolsey, bass. These students will practice and perform with the SEK Choir on December 2 at Labette County

High School in Altamont. The concert will be held in Harrison Auditorium on the LCHS campus at 4:30 pm. Congratulations go to all those students who accomplished this very difficult goal.

## *100<sup>th</sup> Volume of the Crimson Yearbook!!*

The theme of this year's yearbook is "Let's Get Fired Up!" The 2012 book is the 100<sup>th</sup> volume of the *Crimson*, so make sure you don't miss out on an opportunity to own a piece of history! The yearbook staff is working to create a unique book to last a lifetime.

Students completed an order form at school. The forms were sent to our yearbook printer, Jostens. A statement will be arriving in the mail detailing the order placed by the student. Parents will have the opportunity to add or to cancel any part of the order. This simple method will eliminate the need for students to bring money to the school and allow parents the opportunity to discuss purchase decisions with students at home. Yearbook payments can be made through the mail, internet or by calling a toll-free service hotline. Additionally, a special feature of this program allows parents the option of an installment payment plan.

For more information contact Tracy Homan at [thoman@usd234.org](mailto:thoman@usd234.org) or at 620-223-0600.

Texting Fact # 3 - Of those killed in distracted-driving-related crashes, 995 involved reports of a cell phone as a distraction (18% of fatalities in distraction-related crashes). (NHTSA) For more information, visit our home page at [www.ktsro.org](http://www.ktsro.org) or [www.stoptextsstopwrecks.org](http://www.stoptextsstopwrecks.org)!



## Financial Aid for Seniors



There will be a College Financial Aid Seminar on Monday, January 9, 2012 at 7:00 P.M. in the Fort Scott High School Auditorium. All seniors and parents/guardians are encouraged to attend. This seminar is designed to provide information about the many facets of financial aid including grants, scholarships, and student loans. The 2012-2013 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be explained. On-line application is encouraged. Students and parents may request a pin for applying for federal aid by going to [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) . The FAFSA Worksheet is available at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). A pin number is required for completing the FAFSA. It may be helpful to have the pin number before the College Financial Aid Seminar. Please contact the counseling office with questions.

ACT Test Dates:

February 11, 2012

April 14, 2012

June 9, 2012

Registration Deadline:


January 13, 2012

March 9, 2012

May 4, 2012

All Sophomores will take the PLAN Test in January. This is the preliminary ACT test and Interest Inventory. This test is a valuable tool for students as they begin planning for life after high school. Results will be returned to the students approximately six weeks after the tests are given.

## Key Club News

This has started out as a wonderful year. The Fort Scott Key Club has 32 members. As we approach this giving time of the year, Key Club has been very active helping with the American Red Cross Blood Mobile, student needs, Pioneer Kiwanis Chili Feed, and Key Club Family Week. Future projects include helping with the Kiwanis Pancake Feed and Student Council Christmas Beacon Donation. Watch for your opportunity to help out some of these key projects. Key Club will be selling giant  lollipops the first two weeks of December.

A big THANK YOU goes to the Kiwanis and Pioneer Kiwanis for their help and support this year. Ms. Bert Lewis, Sponsor

# Information for Seniors



Thank you to all who helped make the chili feed a success. Profits totaled about \$ 1400.00 and around 105 parents and students worked the four-hour span.

Seniors need to remember to check the bulletin board outside the counselor's office for scholarship opportunities. Some deadlines will be here before you know it. Most have early spring deadlines.



Seniors are working on getting designs for a senior t-shirt. The feed will help those seniors and parents that worked



The proceeds from this year's chili to pay for their shirt.

Senior trip will be Tuesday and Wednesday May 24-25. The deadline to sign up will be announced in the student bulletin sometime around the cost is usually around \$ 150.00 going.



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If I can be of any assistance please let me know.

Sponsor Ms. Bert Lewis

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**Inservice – January 16 – No school for students that day**

# From the School Nurse... Pam Brown

**Here are a few tips to staying healthy and maintaining a healthy weight during the holiday season.**

- Winter can be a great time to get outside and keep fit — for you and your family. A good way is to get them out into the snow to play!
- Encourage kids to be active every day. Experts recommend that kids get 60 minutes or more of physical activity on most — preferably all — days of the week.
- Offer fruits and vegetables at meals and snacks and encourage your child to eat five or more servings a day. Serve appropriate portion sizes. Help your teen make healthy choices when eating out and snacking.
- Limit sugar-sweetened beverages and offer low-fat milk or water instead.
- Limit time spent in front of a screen, including TV and computers, to less than 2 hours a day.
- Set a good example by eating healthy, being physically active, and limiting the time you spend in front of a screen.

**Each February, the American Dental Association (ADA) sponsors National Children's Dental Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of oral health. Developing good habits at an early age and scheduling regular dental visits helps children get a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums.**

## SEASONAL FLU PREVENTION TIPS

- ✓ Do not share drinks or eat after someone else.
- ✓ Practice GOOD HAND HYGIENE by washing your hands after coughing/sneezing, blowing your nose, before eating/food preparation, after tending to the sick, diapering and after using the bathroom.
- ✓ If you have a fever or are ill, stay home until you have recovered. It is recommended that your child be fever free (without medication) for 24 hours before returning to school.
- ✓ A flu shot is recommended for **all** children ages 6 months to 18 years and adults to minimize contracting the flu and spreading it to others. Plan to get the flu vaccine in October or November, but getting vaccinated in December or later will still be beneficial in most years. Influenza can occur any time from November through May, peaking in January or February. It takes up to 2 weeks for protection to develop after the shot with protection lasting up to a year.



The toll-free **Kansas Tobacco Quit-line, 1-866-KAN STOP**, is an effective tool for tobacco users who are ready to quit. The Quit-line is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Experienced cessation counselors work with callers to prepare for a quit date and help them make personalized quit plans. Quitting smoking is not easy, but it can be done.



Fort Scott High School faculty and staff wish you a very Happy New Year!!!