



Eagle Talk

New Growth

SAYRE SCHOOLS

March 2016

“IF WE DON’T CHANGE, WE DON’T GROW. IF WE DON’T GROW, WE AREN’T REALLY LIVING.” –GAIL SHEEHY

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 8

The Ways We Grow...

Spring is often looked upon as a time of awakening, renewal, and new growth. This spring at Sayre is no different. We are shaking off our winter coats, and preparing for spring activities—both academically and athletically. We have planted seeds of change all year—nurturing a new climate and culture within our district. Now we are waiting for the new growth to emerge. It’s easy to see positive change already sprouting and continuing to grow.

Seeing Where We Are...

This month we wrap up our first year of district-wide benchmark testing in the elementary and secondary levels. These scheduled exams are in place to

help teachers assess student learning and instruction. This real time data allows instructors the opportunity to adjust their

A Map to Guide Us...

At the beginning of this school year we set a goal to vertically

“SPRING IS A TIME OF NEW BEGINNINGS, NEW POSSIBILITIES...WHAT QUALITY WOULD YOU LIKE TO GROW THIS SPRING?” ~TARA KILLEN

curriculum and/or pacing mid-year—giving students a better shot at success. We can better see where our students are and where they are headed. State exams are just around the corner, and we feel confident that benchmark testing has been a valuable tool in the continuous assessment of our students’ needs.

map English/Language Arts and Math for grades PK-12. This process can sometimes take years—and although a true curriculum map is never “finished”—we have successfully met this goal along with many sessions of editing and revision for coherence and true alignment. We have worked hard to eliminate gaps and repetition in our curriculum,

added critical components and skills, paced out the timeframe for the delivery of instruction—and did our best to pick up where we had fallen short. So much credit goes out to the teachers at Sayre. Without their support and willingness to see this project to completion, it would have never happened. These maps are only the beginning of our journey—science, history, and elective courses have already prepared the framework to begin mapping their subject areas next year. We are so excited about this new journey for Sayre Schools—we know where we've been and we know where we are going—and we're getting there full steam ahead!

Speaking of....

Speaking of new changes and events at Sayre Schools—we recently hosted the 1st Annual Shortgrass Conference Speech Contest! On March 3rd, four other districts (Carnegie, Navajo, Burns Flat-Dill City, and Mangum) traveled to Sayre to compete in this competition. This contest was rather unique because it allowed students in grades 3-8 to try out their public speaking skills. Often, these type of competitions are not offered to primary or middle level grades.

We wanted to give our students the best chance possible to do well, so after our participants were determined by a local speech contest, we held speech clinics after school to help students polish their speech and delivery. It must have paid off

because our 3rd-5th grade won their division championship! Our 6th-8th grade had a great showing as well and we are so proud of every single child that put in the time to stand up and deliver a speech. We have to truly thank the United Methodist Church of Sayre for so graciously hosting the event and providing refreshments to the participants. Their generosity is so appreciated.

We truly believe that this is an important life skill to offer our students—one that is often feared rather than embraced. We hope this is the beginning of a new tradition at Sayre—perhaps a new way of “speaking up!”

Opportunities & Blessings...

This issue of Eagle Talk is running a bit behind (oops!) due to a super busy beginning to March! Not only did we have a wonderfully successful early release professional development meeting on the 29th, but we followed it up three days later with an amazing day for our kids at the Shortgrass Speech Contest. During this time, I was also preparing for an upcoming business trip to Minneapolis, Minnesota. I was selected by ACT to help write Performance Learning Descriptors for the ACT Aspire exam. I am grateful to get the chance to continually grow as an educator and a leader. I have had so many amazing experiences since becoming a Sayre Eagle—I can't wait to see what the future holds!

Right now we can feel the new grass beneath our feet—pushing us skyward with every change and opportunity that comes our way. We welcome you spring—bring on your new growth!

March Highlights

March 3: Shortgrass Conference Speech Contest @ Sayre

March 5: Regional Powerlifting Meet (Clinton) TBA

March 7: MSBA vs. Hinton (T) 4:30
HSBA vs. Hinton (T) 6:00

March 7-9: MS/HS Cheer Clinic (old gym) 3:15-5:00.

March 7-11: MS/HS Benchmark Testing

March 8: HSGG; Sayre

March 9-18: Youth Expo OKC Stock Show

March 10: HSBG; Sayre

March 10-12: HSBA; Southwest Shootout (Granite)

March 12: State Powerlifting Meet (TBA)

March 14-18: Spring Break (No School)

March 17-19: HSBA; Ripley Invitational

March 21: MSBA; Navajo (H)
HSBA; Navajo (H)

March 21-24: 3rd-5th Benchmark Testing

March 22-23: KG Pre-Enrollment

MSBA @ Mangum (T) 4:30

HSBA @ Mangum (T) 6:00

HSSB vs. Thomas (H) 5:30

March 22: ACT Exam—Junior Class 8:00am

March 23: HSGG; Weatherford

March 24: S.W.I.M Meet (Weatherford)

MSSB @ BFDC (T) 4:30

HSSB @ BFDC (T) 5:30

March 24: Report Cards Sent Home with Students

March 24-26: HSBA; Conference Tournament (Sayre) TBA

March 25: Snow Day (School Dismissed)

March 26 & 27: Alumni Weekend Activities

March 28: Snow Day (School Dismissed)

MSSB @ Carnegie (T) 4:30

HSSB @ Carnegie (T) 5:30

MSBA vs. Snyder (H) 4:30

HSBA vs. Snyder (H) 6:00

March 29: HSGG; Mooreland

MSBA @ Hollis (T) 4:30

HSBA @ Hollis (T) 6:00

MSSB vs. Merritt (H) 4:30

HSSB vs. Merritt (H) 5:30

March 30 & 31: PreK/Headstart Pre-Enrollment (8:00am-3:00pm)

March 31-April 1: MSBA Eagle Classic @ Sayre

HSBG; Weatherford

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