

praise  
 appreciate tribute  
 value recognize  
 cherish gratitude  
 thankful support  
 love applaud thanks  
 grateful

# Eagle Talk

*Moments of  
 Gratitude*

SAYRE SCHOOLS

November 2015

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgiving, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.” –William Arthur Ward

Volume 1, Issue 4

## *A Season to be Thankful*

The last signs of summer fade as the leaves transform and slowly fall to the ground—only to be swept away by a western Oklahoma wind—gently reminding us of the passage of time. The change of seasons come quick and pass without so much as a glance sometimes—so busy looking ahead and preparing for the future that we forget to be grateful for what lies at our feet.

November is often viewed as the time of year to reflect and be grateful for the blessings in our lives, profession, and family. At Sayre Schools, our goal is to prepare for the future but still strive to have *moments of gratitude* year round—blessings that come in the form of progression, achievement, and celebrations.

## *Progression*

With the implementation of vertical curriculum mapping PK-12 in ELA and Math, district-wide benchmark testing in tested subjects and Plan Board—there is a need for on-going training and professional development. We are tentatively looking at Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup> as an early release day to allow extra time for teachers to collaborate and work on their curriculum maps. Students will be released after lunch and will load the busses at approximately 12:30pm. During this time there will also be open come-and-go sessions for assistance in maneuvering the new online grade book system and Plan Board (an online tool for lesson planning).

We could not be more proud of our faculty and administration here at Sayre Schools. They have been asked to not only accept an abundance of change in a short period of time—but to embrace it whole-heartedly in the hope that its benefits will be felt sooner rather than later.

The entire school has felt the waves that come with the impact of this much needed change—but have handled it with a grace that has far exceeded our expectations. So in this traditional month of gratitude—we want to say **thank you** to Sayre teachers, staff, and administration. Thank you for your willingness to adapt and transform to fit the needs of our children and our district. Thank you for your commitment to continuously serve our students.

## Achievement

Sayre is also thankful for our strides in achievement and student victories. The junior high and high school academic teams have stirred up a lot of excitement lately with their continued success! Sayre High School instructor, Sheila Hunter, has been pouring her time and attention into these academic teams—and it's paying off. This is the first year for a JH academic team which is a combination of 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. They recently traveled to Thomas to participate in the Oklahoma Great Plains Conference—a round robin tournament consisting of 16 teams. The HS team has been in the same conference (at Sentinel) and played the second half of the tournament on Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. On October 12<sup>th</sup>, Sayre hosted the district tournament and defeated both Merritt and Hooker to capture the #1 seed for our district! Their next academic adventure will be the Regional Tournament at Crossings Christian on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Good Luck to our students and Mrs. Hunter!

November kicks off the official start of basketball season here in Eagle Country! The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade season started off on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at Merritt. The MS season will begin at home against Clinton on November 16<sup>th</sup>—and the HS will spend their first game at Merritt on November 24<sup>th</sup>. We wish all of our teams the best of luck this season!

The Sayre music department is putting the finishing touches on their performance of *Oklahoma!* The cast will debut this musical in a school-wide performance on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m., and then again for the community on November 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00

p.m. Our student cast is led and directed by Sandy Whinery, Mary Lakey, and Tim Martin.

Be on the lookout for ELEM/MS/HS mid-term grades, as they will go home on November 18<sup>th</sup> and November 20<sup>th</sup>. Also, to observe the Thanksgiving holiday, school will be released on November 25-27.

## Celebrations

November would not be complete without celebrating and honoring our military Veterans. November 9-11 will stand as our "Celebrate Freedom Week" and we will hold a Veterans Day Program in the auditorium on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:15am. This is a great tradition that helps the ideals of freedom and the act of honoring those that served to secure our freedom live on in the eyes of younger generations.

These *moments of gratitude* should be appreciated all year long—but seem more prevalent in a month that stands out for being thankful. A lot of work goes into layers of progression, achievement, and celebration—as we learn to appreciate the small victories along the road to where we want to be. I am so proud and grateful to be a Sayre Eagle during this time of change and opportunity.



## November Highlights

- ✓ **Nov 9-11** Celebrate Freedom Week
- ✓ **Nov 11**—Veterans Day Program @ 10:15am (auditorium)
- ✓ **Nov 12**- 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> BSK vs. Arapaho (away) @ 4:30pm.
- ✓ **Nov 14**—HS Regional Academic Meet (OKC)
- ✓ **Nov 14**—All State Honor Choir Auditions (Edmond)
- ✓ **Nov 16**—5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> BSK vs. Merritt (home) @ 4:30
- ✓ **Nov 16**- MS BSK vs. Clinton (home) 4:30/6:30pm
- ✓ **Nov 17**- 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> BSK vs. BFDC (home) @ 4:30pm
- ✓ **Nov 18**- Elementary Mid-Term grades go home
- ✓ **Nov 19**- MS/HS Pictures (Winter Sports & Student Org)
- ✓ **Nov 19**- MS BSK vs. Navajo (home) @4:30/6:30pm
- ✓ **Nov 20**- School-wide Presentation *Oklahoma!* @ 1:00pm.
- ✓ **Nov 20**- MS/HS Mid-Term grades go home
- ✓ **Nov 21**- SWOSU All Senior Honor Band (TBA)
- ✓ **Nov 21**- Community Presentation of *Oklahoma!* @ 7:00pm (auditorium)
- ✓ **Nov 23**- 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> BSK vs. Erick (home) @ 4:30pm
- ✓ **Nov 23**- MS BSK vs. Elk City (home) @ 4:30/6:30pm
- ✓ **Nov 24**- WOCDA Honor Choir (Woodward)
- ✓ **Nov 24**- HS BSK vs. Merritt (away) @ 4:00/6:30pm
- ✓ **Nov 25-27**- Thanksgiving Break
- ✓ **Nov 30**- MS BSK (BFDC tournament)

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