



# Eagle Talk

*Planting Seeds for a Harvest*

SAYRE SCHOOLS

October 2015

“ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST. WHAT YOU PLANT NOW, YOU WILL HARVEST LATER.” OG MANDINO

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## Planting Seeds for a Harvest

“Before the reward there must be labor. You plant before you harvest. You sow in tears before you reap joy” (Ralph Ransom). In a lot of ways an educator is much like a farmer. A farmer cultivates and prepares the soil for planting; making sure he provides enough resources for healthy development. He takes great care in protecting his crop from lurking dangers so that he may reap the benefits of a hardy harvest. A school district perceives its children in much the same way. Teachers and administrators work diligently to create the kind of school environment that not only promotes learning, but also enriches the lives of its students. We try to make sure our students have what they need to grow and become strong—possessing the ability to remain resilient in the face of obstacles.

While our community gears up for a brisk autumn—busy sowing wheat in

awaiting fields, here at Sayre schools we are persistently planting seeds of our own. *Seeds of gratitude, change, and hope.* We sow them every day—constantly nurturing—waiting patiently for our time of harvest.

## Seeds of Gratitude

We are so thankful to our community for the recent passage of the bond proposal. This allows us to continually fulfill our mission of serving students for the future—providing them with the kind of facilities they truly deserve.

Competitive bids for the sale of the bonds will be considered on October 8<sup>th</sup>, and at that time the interest rates for the bonds will be determined. Next up in the process, will be to set the calendar for construction! The passage of a bond issue for any community is huge. Since the mid-1980s school districts have been prohibited by statute from making capital improvements out of their existing general fund balance. Therefore, without the

passage of bond issues—capital improvements to school campuses would prove to be an insurmountable task. While we will use bond monies to construct the elementary safe room—we will also be constructing a safe room and storm shelter with building fund monies (which is a separate account from general fund) for our middle school and high school students where the existing 6<sup>th</sup> grade wing is currently located. The overarching goal of the district’s strategic planning committee was that at the conclusion of this process *every child* in Sayre Schools would have access to a safe room/storm shelter in case of an emergency. Using the building fund to create the second safe room achieves this goal without considerably raising taxes for the community. We know that the near future will be a time of hard work, accommodations, and construction—but we will keep our eyes on the horizon knowing that a finished product is not far from our grasp.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the Sayre Public School Foundation for supplying grants for various projects, supplies, professional development, and resources. Several educators were recently selected to receive a 2015-2016 grant: Ann Edwards, Amanda Buie, Kori Whitney, Sharon Meharg, Stacey Valdez, Tara Tignor, Mona Bevington, Tammy Day, Marla Hendrix, Shelley Maddoux, Sandy Whinery, and myself. We truly appreciate Jeannene Blevins, Nikki Jennings, and the Sayre Public School Foundation for establishing an avenue for educators to continue to achieve greatness and better serve their students.

## Seeds of Change

We continue the undertaking of change—learning to not only accept it, but to embrace it. To truly embrace change is to welcome it and all of its complexities. We're holding on tight through the struggles, the moments of disappointment, and the setbacks—working together to achieve a common goal. The implementation of curriculum mapping is well underway at Sayre. Aligning our English/language arts and mathematics courses from PK-12<sup>th</sup> grade will provide structure in our curriculum—allowing for better coherence, collaboration, and the removal of gaps and repetition in instruction. Framework will be created for non-mapped subjects this year, and we will move into building curriculum maps for science and history in the 2016-2017 school year.

Continually assessing student learning has become an invaluable tool for teachers. Sayre has recently implemented district-wide

benchmark testing for tested subjects. This allows teachers to assess student learning and progress at set times during the year—giving educators the ability to alter their instruction based on their students' needs. Each assessment will be comprehensive; this helps in the evaluation of student performance and knowledge retention. We are also developing strategies for intervention and remediation to accommodate students on various levels.

## Seeds of Hope

Any school district would be a less effective place without hope. The field of education and devoting your life to serving children is not always the smoothest road to ride along—but it's a journey worth taking. Every day we plant seeds of hope in our district. Hope for our students, teachers, administration, and community—hope for the fruition of our ideas and goals. In our school, we are striving to cultivate the best *ground* for our children to grow up on—a foundation that is strong, a journey that is nurtured—and a future filled with promise. Here at Sayre, we're sowing our seeds and putting in the labor—expecting nothing less than a bountiful harvest.



## October Highlights

- ✓ Oct 2-HS FB (home) 7:00pm
- ✓ Oct 2-Little Eagle Cheer @ Halftime
- ✓ Oct 5- Blue Shirt Day (World Day of Bullying Prevention)
- ✓ Oct 5- MS FB (away) 5:30/7:00
- ✓ Oct 6- MS/HS Pic Re-takes
- ✓ Oct 9- End of 1<sup>st</sup> 9 weeks
- ✓ Oct 9- HS FB (away) 7:00pm
- ✓ Oct 12-16 FALL BREAK
- ✓ Oct 12- HS District Academic Meet @ Sayre (Merritt & Hooker)
- ✓ Oct 12- MS FB (home) 5:30/7:00
- ✓ Oct 15- HS FB (home)
- ✓ October 19-2<sup>nd</sup> 9weeks begins
- ✓ Oct 19- FFA Labor Auction 6:00pm (Cafeteria)
- ✓ Oct 19- MS FB (home) 5:30/7:00
- ✓ Oct 20- MS Academic Meet
- ✓ Oct 21- Unity Day (Anti-Bullying)
- ✓ Oct 21-5<sup>th</sup> grade Science Outdoor Classroom (Elk City)
- ✓ Oct 22- Sr. Night Bonfire
- ✓ Oct 23- Grade Cards go home
- ✓ Oct 23- HS FB Sr. Night (home)
- ✓ Oct 26- Red Ribbon Week
- ✓ Oct 26- MS FB (home) 5:30/7:30
- ✓ Oct 27- MS Fall Dance 6-8pm
- ✓ Oct 28- PSAT for Juniors
- ✓ Oct 30- HS FB (away) 7:00
- ✓ Oct 31- Small Band All-State Auditions

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