

Sublette Middle School & High School

Principal's Notes by Cesar Peña, Sublette MS & HS principal

Dear Parents,

Our first quarter of school has just ended and it really seemed to fly by. The second quarter has begun! I hope you were able to attend our Parent/Teacher conferences and visit with your sons'/daughters' teachers. If you were unable to, please feel free to contact the teacher if there are any concerns you might have. We are looking forward to an even better second quarter.

As you know, our students did very well on their state assessments again last year. The Kansas State Department of Education recently finalized scores and we earned three Standard of Excellence Awards. Sublette Middle School earned Standard of Excellence in 7th grade Reading and Standard of Excellence in

Reading Building Wide. Sublette High School earned Standard of Excellence in Math and Reading Building Wide. We also earned from the Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force a Certificate of Merit as part of the 9th Annual Challenge Award because our 11th grade math assessment results. I am very proud of the teachers and students at our school, but we are always striving to do better, and your help and encouragement in this process is always appreciated.

Kansas University honors students that are in the top ten percent of their senior class. Vanessa Berg, Katelyn Marlin, Travis Powell, & Daryan Whaler were honored on November 2 at SCCC. Our September Rotary Student of the Month is Vanessa Berg, and our October Ro-

tary Student of the Month is Cole Sjeklocha. The two were recognized at Rotary and are now eligible to receive a scholarship from our local Rotary group.

Now onto a lighter note, we have recently finished volleyball, football, girls golf, and cross country. Our student athletes did very well and have represented Sublette schools in a very positive manner. Boys' and girls' MS basketball has started practicing, and other winter sports are just around the corner. Please come out and support our Larks! We will also be having our winter concert band and chorus concert. We have some tremendous talent at our school. We hope you get a chance to come and hear them in December.

Thank you very much for your support!



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It is impossible for a man to learn what he thinks he already knows.

Epictetus

We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.

Winston Churchill

PLC Information by Steve Simpson, Sublette MS & HS PE & Health teacher

The PLC group, made up of Kit Griffin (FACS), Maria Fisher (Art), Dallas Roths (Music), and Steve Simpson (P.E.) are discussing and looking at strategies that would benefit the Common Core areas, especially reading and writing. These are strategies that the instructors in those classes which might be considered by some as "the other classes" or "co-curricular" could incorpo-

rate into their lessons to help improve reading comprehension and the ability to express what students know in written and oral presentation. Vocabulary, practical application in problem solving, and math, as well as small writing practices in persuasive or expertise presentations are just some of the ideas being considered by this group.

This group is also pre-

paring a power point for the January in-service that will be a breakdown and summarization of the book, [FOCUS-Elevating the Essentials](#), by Mike Schmoker. This presentation will focus on the Common Core practices, simple instruction, and authentic literacy.

Student concerns, scheduling of parent-teacher conferences, and other day-to-day problems/strategies are also discussed in this group.

Sublette Middle School BEST Program

Beginning this fall students in the Seventh and Eighth Grade will be eligible to attend a tutoring, homework and enrichment program.

September 6, 2011 Through May 15, 2012

Monday-Thursday 7:15 a.m.-7:45 a.m. And 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Activities include:

Homework Help
Reading and Math Assistants
Art
Crafts
Music
Photography
Bowling
Racquet ball
Foreign Language
Rocketry

Community Partners

Thunder Strikes Bowling Alley
Sublette Recreation
Haskell County Extension
String Academy of the Plains



Enrollment Fee: \$10.00 (This fee will include a three week summer program.)
Call the Middle School office for more information (620) 675-2232

Middle School Math by Gwen Simmons, MS Math Teacher

Education costs money, but then so does ignorance.

Claus Moser

*I am proud of
all their hard work*

The middle school math classroom has had a very exciting first nine weeks of learning. The 7th grade class has been working with all types of graphs which include double-bar and line graphs, circle graphs, and stem- and leaf plots. They learned three new types of graphs: the histogram, the box-and-whisker plot, and the scatter plot. Each student had to produce each new graph and analyze the data given on each graph. They reviewed how to find the mean, median, and mode of the data given on a graph and answer questions about the data. The students also learned how

graphs can be made to give misleading information and what techniques to look for to spot a misleading graph.

The seventh graders are now studying the pre-algebra skill of solving mathematical expressions by using the order of operations rule. The expressions have exponent number as well as parentheses and other grouping symbols in them, so they can be very challenging!

The eighth grade students have been working with solving equations and inequalities. They use this skill to help with their problem solving work as a pro-

cedure to follow to come up with a reasonable solution to the word problem. They are also using both positive and negative integers in equations, inequalities and with properties of exponents. The students are writing large and small numbers in exponential form, standard form and scientific notation form. I am proud of all their hard work! The afternoon math skills class has been working hard on fractions and mixed numbers. They use the web-based program Study Island to help hone their skills needed for the State Math Assessment as well as the Skillsbank Program for more practice with math computation and word problems.

Antibullying Sites by Sally Bruce, Sublette MS & HS Counselor

Over the past year, lots of stories have been in the news about teens and young adults being bullied. Some of the incidents have ended tragically. Sublette Middle and High School is dedicated to preventing bullying among teens and kids. If you are being bullied, talk to a trusted adult and check out the Websites listed below to get information that can help you.

Stop Bullying Now: <http://www.stopbullying.gov/kids/>

National Center for Bullying Prevention: www.pacerkidsagainstbullying.org

Anti-Bullying Alliance: <http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org>

Bully-Free Kids: www.bullyfreekids.com

Beat bullying: www.beatbullying.org

International Bullying Prevention Association: www.stopbullyingworld.com



"We need to band together. You, me and about fourteen other guys to take on Big Bobby."

The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.

B.B. King



This is my second attempt at an article. The first was too long and it will now be on our school website, www.usd374.org.

Have you ever been at sea in a dense fog, when it seemed as if a tangible white darkness shut you in and the great ship, tense and anxious, groped her way toward the shore with plummet and sounding-line, and you waited with beating heart for something to happen? I was like that ship before my education began, only I was without compass or sounding line, and no way of knowing how near the harbor was. "Light! Give me light!" was the wordless cry of my soul, and the light of love shone on me in that very hour.

Helen Keller

Life & Writing by Paul Trigg, Sublette MS Social Studies Teacher

Middle School and High School teachers have been asked to put an article in the SMS/SHS quarterly newsletter. This is my second attempt at an article. The first was too long, and it will now be on our school website, www.usd374.org. The reason I'm doing a second article will be explained below when you get to the paragraph that begins: Educators from Sublette MS/HS... To be brief, it states that writing is important in "today's world," and we as educators should model writing to our students. I strongly believe that writing is important, and I too need practice. Here goes...

Let me introduce myself; I'm Paul Trigg. I currently find myself extremely grunted at SMS as the Social Science guy for 7th and 8th graders; along with teaching 18 little charmers in an 8th grade reading class, and a 7th /8th geography class. I've taught in a 6th grade classroom, 5th grade classroom, MS Math classroom, and occupied a principal's office for two years. I've been a head or assistant coach in MS football, MS/HS volleyball, MS boys' and girls' basketball, HS boys' and girls' basketball, MS/HS track, MS Quiz Bowl, and HS girls' softball.

All of the above has taken place the last 34 years (1978-I hope, May 2012). For my students out there, yes, I'm old but wise. If you want to know how old; I was born in Dec. 1955.

Anyway, as a teacher I've found there are always

times of change, recycling, reducing, and reusing. I've seen a great many people, places, things, ideas, and events taking place along this thirty-four year journey throughout the halls, classrooms, and playing fields of USD #374. The people that have impacted my life and the lives of my family in a positive way are many. Thanks for the help along the way and thanks for your help and continued support as the journey continues.

If you would like to read how this whole Sublette thing got started for me go to www.usd374.org. In my humble opinion, the other article is better reading material. If not, I won't be offended, but Mike Lower the website guy might like to put in some of your writings. He's always looking for other peoples' musings on what's happening throughout the district.

The following paragraphs are a part of why I'm doing this article.

Educators from SMS and SHS recently attended the Western Kansas Reading Conference in Holcomb, Kansas. One of the featured speakers was Mr. Kelly Gallagher, a full-time English teacher at Magnolia High School in Anaheim, California. Within his lecture and in his book, "Write Like This," he brings these questions to the forefront. "How do we get students to understand that the hard work and frustration that comes with learning to write well is worth it? How do we get students to see the impor-

tance writing can play in their adult lives? How can we change the fact that seven out of ten students are leaving high school without adequate writing skills."

In his answer to the above questions he states, "we must give careful consideration to the two premises that center this book:" Again I quote his book, *Write Like This*: "(1) If we are to build students who grow up to write in the real world, we must move our writing instruction beyond a "cover the state standards" mind set by introducing our young writers to additional real world discourses, and (2) In teaching our students how to write we must provide them with authentic modeling—modeling that comes from both the teacher and from real world texts."

I hope this fits the space because as Allen Iverson so famously said, "This is practice!"


As the so-called franchise player, who needs practice?" I don't adhere to his opinion. I certainly need practice, as do our students. Therefore, if I need a third installment to this tall tale, so be it!

What sculpture is to a block of marble education is to the human soul.
Joseph Addison

The Mission of SHS/SMS is to provide a positive, loving, safe, supportive and disciplined learning environment that will enable our students to achieve academic excellence, become responsible lifelong learners, and productive citizens in an ever-changing society.

We're on the Web
www.usd374.org



Sublette
Middle School

High School

The Scarlet and the Gray

Other schools have different colors
 And different emblems too
 But the sons of glorious Sublette
 To the Scarlet and Gray are true.
 We love our blue eyed daisy
 And the rising sun today;
 The sons will e're be faithful
 To the Scarlet and the Gray.
 Thru the four long years of study
 We went our busy way
 And we foster our ambitions
 Which we hope to reach some day;
 But still we have our pleasure,
 And our games of skill display;
 And we'll fight for dear old
 Sublette
 For the Scarlet and the Gray.
 When in future years we're
 thinking
 Of the happy days gone by
 And joys we had in singing
 In the halls of Sublette High,
 Our memories will remind us Of
 our studies
 and our play, And the day we
 spent in Sublette
 'Neath the Scarlet and the Gray.

**We are the Larks, Larks, Larks
 of Sublette - We're the best team
 all around!**

The Lark Quarterly
 Sublette MS/HS PO Box 460 Sublette, KS 67877

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PHYSICAL SCIENCE 1ST NINE WEEKS ROUNDUP

By Monty Marlin, Physical Science teacher, SHS

This year's Physical Science Students have now survived their first nine weeks. The year began with a discussion involved around pre-conceived notions concerning the field of Science. Students came up with words associated with Science such as "fun," "labs," "boring," "periodic table," "chemicals," and "difficult," among many others. The idea of science being difficult does have merit, especially for beginning science students. Students are constantly exposed to terms and phrases that, in some cases, they have never seen or heard before. And it is highly possible some

may never use these terms or phrases again once they make it through physical science and chemistry classes. That in itself does make the subject of science a difficult one. As a class, we discussed the importance of asking questions when words or phrases pop up with which students are unfamiliar. If you think about it, that is what science is, asking questions and searching for answers. And then when you throw in something called the "SI unit of measure," commonly known as the metric system, we add another thing we have to deal with that we don't tend to use everyday. Attempting to learn the Metric system and the English systems of meas-

urement is similar to learning two different languages. The idea of knowing both of those and attempting to convert from one to another can be a difficult task for students. So having said all this about how difficult science can be, I tell my students it is my job to make learning science easier, not necessarily "easy." By its nature, for most of us, science is a difficult field. Relating it to things that are relevant to us in everyday life, attempting to make the classroom a fun learning environment, doing labs and demonstrations as well as providing a few humorous stories is hopefully what is in store for the next

MS/HS Language Arts by Tammy Thomas, Language Arts Teacher, SHS

The teachers of language arts at Sublette Middle School and High School expect exciting things to happen this year. Two new teachers have joined us: Matt Fox and Justin Moore. The first quarter of this school year has flown by and has been filled with great literature, challenging vocabulary, and introspective writing assignments. All of this prepares the tenth and eleventh graders for the Kansas Reading Assessment. We have no doubt that our students will do well on this assessment as they

have in years past.

The speech class, required for tenth graders, and the drama class, an elective, play significant supporting roles in the language arts department. The students in the speech class are currently working on original documentaries about an important person in the Civil Rights Movement. This project is a cross-curricular assignment in conjunction with Mr. Hafen's social studies class. In his class, the tenth graders study the history of civil rights in our country; in speech class the students research and create

original movies about specific people involved in the struggle for civil rights. This project helps the students learn not only about the people but also how to work in groups and integrate technology into the learning process.

The students of the drama class prepare all year for their crowning achievement, the play. As we come closer to the actual production of that play, we will write in greater detail in this newsletter. For now, we say that it looks like we will have an interesting production that we will proudly present to our community.