



Cat Chat



Cashion High School

Dec-Jan 2009

Words for Wildcats

By: Mrs. Oard

I recently attended a training session on the 21st century student and the technology skills your children should possess. As we continue to explore the methods to develop those skills at school, we are also bringing in new tools for use by teachers and students. These tools are funded through a variety of means. Our stimulus (ARRA) money is allowing us to purchase computers, Smart Boards and additional sources of technology for our special education and Title I students.

The most recent award of equipment comes through a [U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service \(RUS\) Distance Learning Grant](#). Cashion Public Schools began working last spring within a consortium of eight small schools to obtain this grant. We were notified in late October that it was to be funded and we could move forward with our goals within the grant. Additional SMART Boards, new computers, and an iPod Touch lab, are all part of our commitment to the grant. In return, we will be receiving new distance learning equipment, extended opportunities for professional development, and access to an Apple server for podcasts we want to save or borrow.

The distance learning equipment will be used for our high school students that participate in concurrent enrollment for college classes and possibly some high school classes. We will also use this equipment to participate in professional development opportunities. Our teachers can receive training without leaving the campus which will save time and travel expenses. Initially the iPod lab will be incorporated into the elementary school classrooms with students and teachers creating and viewing podcasts to enhance their education.

On a different note, most of the men I know get excited about TV commercials as we near the end of the professional football season. Those Super Bowl commercials are more creative and amusing each year.

I, however, enjoy Christmas commercials. Some are funny, some are cute, and some are timeless (I have had past students sing the jingle in the B.C. Clark commercial). My favorite commercial is the one from the Mercy Hospital choir that reminds me of what my role should be and what your children are to me.

“Let me a be blessing to someone You send my way...”

Merry Christmas!

From the Cafeteria Staff:

Due to kitchen renovations and equipment replacement, our menu is subject to change without notice?

FFA Competition Results

Results of the Kingfisher PI Creed and Opening Ceremonies Contest are as follows:

8th Grade Creed – Brook Fields 1st, Jayci Robison 2nd, and Kaylee Stephenson 5th

9th Grade Creed – Baylee Broadbent 4th, Jay Nail 6th

Opening Ceremonies Contest – Cashion 3rd

Reminder – FFA Labor Auction January 25th & Achievement Day Jan. 30-31.

STUCO News

The Winter Formal was a great success. Our old science teacher, Mr. Anderson, was the D.J. for both the junior high and the high school dances. The students greatly enjoyed the food and music while dancing the night away.

The food drive for the community was a success. Many of the students brought in canned goods for the community holiday food baskets.

Secondary News

By: Mr. Vandruff
H.S. Principal

Happy Holidays! It's hard for me to believe that one semester has flown by so quickly. I guess when you are having fun, the time really does go by fast. Football season was amazing and very exciting! I know we fell short of our goals, but we played with determination and perseverance and came up a bit short, being defeated by Stroud by only five points. After watching the game, I realized that our student/athletes do not quit. This is a credit to parents, staff and our coaches. They were relentless in their efforts to get back in the game. Wow! What an exciting adventure we were on during this football season! As much as we hurt for our players, students, faculty and patrons after the loss, it was a valuable lesson learned on how to lose. Not that we will ever like losing or get accustomed to losing but it is a valuable asset to know the pain of losing. These are important life lessons that are learned on the field. I would like to thank all of our coaches for the countless hours and efforts they have put into our football program to make it a successful program.

As we transition into basketball, I ask that we hold our students and student/athletes to high standards in the classroom also. Thank you for allowing my teachers to teach your children. These teachers have set high goals, and they expect your children to reach them. Not only do the teachers have high standards, but our legislators have also put more legislation requiring more of our students. The result of this legislation affects the graduating class of 2012, this year's 10th grade class. As this class moves through the three years of high school, students will have to pass four (4) of seven (7) End-of-Instruction exams in order to receive a high school diploma. The testing takes place after the completion of the course. As you can see, the times are definitely changing for our students in education.

Cashion High School students have established a reputation for appropriate behavior, both as spectators and as participants in the areas of sportsmanship, spirit, enthusiasm, attitude, and character. This attitude is a positive factor in our school climate. It is extremely important that we continue to demonstrate the appropriate behaviors at our basketball games.

I know everyone will enjoy the time spent with

families and friends during this joyous season and that you will come back from vacation ready to tackle the tasks and challenges of the New Year. Have a safe and happy holiday. See you in 2010!

Kyle Vandruff
High Expectations.....High Achievement

FCCLA news

FCCLA has been busy joining BPA, NHS, and STUCO in a community service project to beautify the cemetery. Students filled in holes, picked up trash and sat up headstones that had fallen over.

The Cashion FCCLA also joined STUCO in hosting the Winter Snowball dance, Saturday December 5. FCCLA's own Flat Mr. Benjamin attended the dance. This is a promotional project from the national headquarters to promote FCCLA awareness. A life size cut out of our FCCLA National President is visiting each FCCLA chapter in Oklahoma, as well as other states. This replica attends an event where pictures of FCCLA students are taken with Flat Mr. Benjamin and then sent to the Oklahoma Department of Career Tech. These pictures will be placed in a slide show where all of Flat Mr. Benjamin's travels will be shown at the FCCLA State Convention in April. Here student's activities will be showcased.

FCCLA is also busy collecting 2011 nickels to help raise funds for our Oklahoma FCCLA Alumni Association in order to increase funding of FCCLA scholarships for high school seniors in Oklahoma.

FCCLA wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

BPA news

Cashion BPA met at noon on December 10. Those members who helped at the BPA, FCCLA, STUCO, National Honor Society, and FFA combined organization community clean-up project were recognized.

State BPA competitive events will be March 9. Twelve members will compete. And, an etiquette lunch has been planned for March 2 in Stillwater.

Happy
Holidays!

Counselor's Corner

By Meagan Scott

By Meagan Scott, Counselor

ACT

The next ACT is February 6th. Regular registration ends January 5th. Late registration is from January 6th-15th, 2010.

SENIORS-FINANCIAL AID

Every student who is attending college, career tech, or other trade school should fill out the **FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)**. This is the application that qualifies you for grants, work-study, and student loan programs. The maximum amount of aid varies from year to year. Even if you don't believe your family will qualify, you should complete the application. Many colleges and some other funding programs require it. Those who don't qualify for grants may still qualify for loans which can be repaid after graduation. In order to get federal student or parent loans for college a FAFSA must be completed.

Beginning January 1st the **FAFSA** becomes available at **fafsa.ed.gov**. Please fill out the application as soon as possible. You can use your estimated tax numbers and go back and finalize once your 2009 taxes are finished. Applying early holds your place in line for financial aid. The sooner you apply sometimes the more aid available to you.

Since you fill out the FAFSA form online you will need a **pin** number to electronically "sign" the form. Each family will need 2 pins, one for the student and one for the parent. Please apply for the pin ASAP. To apply for your pin number please go to **pin.ed.gov**

Technology and Students

As a mom of teenagers and in my position of school counselor I am always worried about my own children and students making wise choices concerning technology. In my recent School Counselor magazine I came upon an article written by Rosalind Wise who is the author of "Queen Bees and Wannabees". She gives some simple solutions and ideas for keeping our children safe while using technology:

1. Students should never share a password with friends or people they are dating.
2. Know your child's passwords for each of their accounts.
3. Parents should track what time their children are texting and posting on sites such Facebook and MySpace.
4. Have a designated adult be the only one in the house who is allowed to clear the browser cache of websites that have been visited and keeping a log of when that was done last.
5. Remind your child that technology is a privilege, not a right and it should never be used to humiliate, embarrass or send personal information; misrepresent yourself or someone else; use passwords without the person's permission; put someone down; or compromise yourself by sending embarrassing photos or information of you or of other people. If they violate this agreement all technology will be taken away until they can earn your trust back.
6. Let your child know that you will be looking at their Facebook page. If there is anything that they would be embarrassed for you to see then that should be a cue that it is inappropriate to post.

These are just a few guidelines that you can use to keep your child safe while using technology that Rosalind Wise suggests but I believe having an open and honest line of communication with your child is the most important one.

**For more tips and free resources please visit www.ikeepsafe.org/PRC/

Hoggatt's Happenings

Happy December! I cannot believe that we are coming to the end of the first semester. I would like to share with you a few things that can help you help your child be more successful at school. I would like to share with you about Study Smarts, the Bystander's Role in a Bullying Situation and the Power of a Parent.

Study Smarts

- **Start a Habit:** Studying is a skill your child will need throughout their years of school. You can help your child study effectively with the following tips. 1. **Start a Habit-Encourage** your child to treat studying as a daily assignment, not just something they do the night before a test. For example, she might study 10-15 minutes every night for a spelling test on Friday. After they finish their regular homework, they can spend a little time reviewing their notes and handouts.
- **Tackle Textbooks:** When your child has a chapter to study, have her "preview" it to increase their understanding. She should glance over headings, graphics and photos and go to the glossary to look up boldfaced words. **Tip:** If they find a section of the chapter that may be difficult to understand, then find a picture book on the topic. For a science unit on matter, for instance, she could try *What Is The World Made Of?* By Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld.
- **Mix it Up:** If your child reviews information in several ways, they'll be more likely to remember it. They might use colored pencils to copy each spelling word or math fact onto a separate index card. Then, she can shuffle the cards and study them in a different order each time. For extra reinforcement, suggest that they can spell each word or recite each fact aloud.

A Bystander's Role in a Bullying Situation

- **Q:** My child came home from school upset because kids were picking on a classmate. What should I tell my child?
- **A:** Share with your child the definition of bullying- Harassment, intimidation, and bullying means any gesture, written or verbal expression, electronic communication or physical act that a reasonable person should know will harm another student, damage another student's property, place another student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person

or damage to the student's property, or insult or demean any student or group of students in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school's educational mission or the education of any student. Harassment, intimidation, and bullying include, but are not limited to, a gesture or written, verbal, or physical act or electronic communications. Explain to them that they also have the power to stop the unkind behavior. First, report the behavior to the supervising teacher. Then, ask the student that is being bullied to go play a game or join them in another activity away from the bully. Finally, let your student know that reporting a bully is not tattling, but in a way helping someone that is hurt.

Parent Power

There are many ways you can support your students learning and school. Here are a few ideas.

- Spend a few minutes every evening looking over handouts your student brings home. Fill out forms to return the next day.
- Ask your child's teacher(s) if you can help them at school.
- Make sure teachers know you appreciate their efforts. From time to time send them a thank you note or an email.
- Contact your child's teachers immediately if you see a problem. Working together will help your youngster succeed.
- Attend conferences, parent meetings, and school events regularly.

In closing, I hope these three suggestions help you help your child have the best experience at school possible. Also, Please also look on the Cashion Public Schools Website for more information. <http://cashion.k12.ok.us/>

Your Partner in Education,
Ashley Hoggatt

Cashion teen named to state education advisory council

Cashion High School freshman, Evan Bird, has been named to the 2009-2010 State Superintendents' Student Advisory Council. The 15-year old will join 49 other high school students from across the state to provide input regarding issues that face education in Oklahoma.

State Superintendent Sandy Garrett created the advisory council to gain valuable feedback from Oklahoma public school students and to engage student leaders in learning by doing. The council members are selected to represent the diverse geographic, demographic, and school-size variables particular to our state. Evan, along with the others will serve as a student advisor by helping the Oklahoma State Department of Education to include student voices in policy recommendations to the State Board of Education and the Oklahoma State Legislature.

In an essay to the advisory council selection committee, Evan says he believes the top three issues facing Oklahoma students are low test scores, drugs and bullying. The top issue, in his opinion is bullying. Evan suggested school officials crack down more on bullies by creating and enforcing stiffer punishments.

Evan and his family have been residents of Cashion for four years. He is the freshman class treasurer and is involved in band, basketball, baseball and the Business Professionals of America (BPA) organization. He spends many hours volunteering his time to the regional food bank, the Presbyterian Urban Mission and the City Rescue Mission in Oklahoma City. Evan is a member of Grace Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City and is an active member in the youth group there. He has gone on mission trips to San Diego, Costa Rica and New Orleans.

Evan is the son of Chris and Kim Bird of Cashion and the grandson of longtime Yukon resident, Charles Walkingstick.

The Student Advisory Council will meet for the first time on Monday, December 7, 2009 in the State Board Room of the State Department of Education.



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Only one book will capture this year's incredible events and experiences – YOUR YEARBOOK. It's the only place to find the friends, fashion, fun, favorite teachers and classes, sports, music, dances, and everything in-between.

Now, it's easier than ever for you to get your yearbook! In a partnership with Jostens, our yearbook printer, we offer a service that allows you to purchase your yearbook from home. You will be mailed all of the details about the yearbook including the price of the book, the ordering deadline and information on any other yearbook items that are available. Plus, you no longer need to remember to bring money to school, since you will purchase your yearbook by mail, the Internet or by calling toll-free 1-866-282-1516. It's an easy and convenient way to purchase your yearbook.

Finally, if it is more convenient for you to purchase your yearbook through the school, you may do so. Simply send your money to Mrs. Gruntmeir at the high school. Yearbooks are \$35 through May 31. After that time, the cost increases to \$40. Order yours today!