

Thursday, February 7, 2011

Dear Colleagues,

Many times the biggest decision I make, with the potential to be scrutinized, is whether to have school on a snowy day. Well last month, the decision to cancel school seemed easy compared to the bomb threat hoax in Morton County and the decision area districts had to make related to this information. The hoax was discovered on a Wednesday and I sent a letter to all parents on Thursday afternoon; however, in retrospect I needed a quicker method for getting the word out to parents. This is one reason why we have been encouraging parents, students and staff members to sign up for Eagle Alerts.

**Eagle Alerts:** If you have not already done so, please sign up for this on the front page of our web-site. Whenever breaking news related to any or all Hugoton Schools occurs, we will send out brief text messages to those individuals who have signed up. We are still having some issues with certain cell providers, but we are working on this.

**Rumor Mill Link:** Another new communication tool is a new link on our district web-site. If you travel to the Central Office drop-down bar on our district web-site, you will find this link. I would like to encourage staff, parents and students to submit any rumor they have heard. The rumor will then be placed on this link with an explanation from the appropriate school office. These postings will remain anonymous. Please check out this link and consider submitting a rumor. <http://usd210.weebly.com/rumor-mill.html>

**MS/HS Open House:** This Thursday, February 10, during parent/teacher conferences we will have a community Open House. Between 11:30-12:30, we will be bussing our Senior Center crowd from the Senior Center to the Eagle's Nest for a free lunch. Later this same day, from 6:00-8:00pm we will have an Open House for the entire community. Unfortunately, the new Athletic Complex is not yet completed and will not be available to view during Open House.

**ECDC Progress:** The new playground equipment for our Early Childhood Development Center has been installed by McBride Construction and as soon as the weather warms up, students will be able to enjoy these new spaces. This is the exciting culmination of much hard work as a great deal of the money for this project was raised last year by the Elementary School in a very successful fundraiser.

**District Purchases 10 Acres:** The USD 210 BOE has purchased a plot of land just south of Alco. This land will extend our property to the west all the way to Optima Road/West City Limits. When construction began on the new MS, our old JV baseball field had to be abandoned. With only one HS sized baseball field in Hugoton, this has created some problems. The goal for this new land is to have a full-sized practice field/JV baseball game field by the spring of 2012. Eventually, with the help of a HRC partnership there is room in this 10 acre plot for a second field. The cost of this land was just over \$40,000.

**Construction News Briefs:**

- The **Middle School canopy tower**, main entrance should be completed this month. Cold weather has made progress here slow.
- **HS Athletic Complex:** Furniture delivery to this last phase of construction will be the week of February 21<sup>st</sup>. This 18,000 square foot facility will consist of a 5,000 square foot FEMA shelter/wrestling room, a 3,000 square foot weightlifting room, new boys' and girls' locker rooms, a new training room, football storage room and one new classroom.
- **Old wrestling room:** Once our wrestling program has moved into their new spaces, a conversion will take place in their current facility. Plans are being developed to convert the majority of this building to a Grounds Shop. If you remember, the oldest section of our old Grounds Shop was razed to make room for the new HS Athletic Complex.
- **Old MS kitchen and cafeteria:** There are no new plans for this area. It will remain available for student, staff and community use.
- **Old Football Locker Room:** This facility is slated for remodeling. It will be converted into a cross country locker room as well as additional storage for cheerleading, drill team, and cross country. The current laundry room in this facility will remain.

Thank you staff for your commitment to student learning and a positive environment for all our students and stakeholders. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call, email or enter a question into our new Rumor Link.

Sincerely,

*Mark K. Crawford*

*Rigorous **LEARNING**, Relevant **TEACHING**, & Relationship **BUILDING WITH ALL STUDENTS.....USD 210***

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