the Beat

April 2018

BLAST

Students in BLAST (Beatrice Learning After School Time) enjoy a visit from Brendan Summers and a skid loader during the Construction Unit at Stoddard Elementary. For more on the after school program see page 3.

(above) Kylie Essam, Paddock Lane paraprofessional, shares one of her baby chickens with a student. (below) Essam works on shapes with a student.

Essam named Employee of the Month

Kylie Essam is the March employee of the month. "Kylie has one of the hardest jobs," said her nominator, "she works in the ACP1 classroom at Paddock Lane Elementary where stress is high and the speed at which we see progress is slow." That never causes Kylie to waiver in her efforts to see the student or students assigned to her make progress.

No matter how the day is going, you will hear Kylie's contagious laugh and see a smile that would brighten anyone's day. Several of the students in the ACP I classroom require one-on-one support, and Kylie for years has been the para educator to provide that support for many of those little ones.

Last year a special student came to us at Paddock Lane. He was in a stroller or wheel chair all day long and had no purposeful movement. Kylie pushed and pushed him to use his wheelchair on his own, to walk with assistance, and to maneuver around the classroom and the building. She was always pushing him to talk, request items and to use communication devices. She pushed our little friend each and every day to grow in his skills.

What was accomplished through Kylie's never ending motivation is nothing short of unbelievable. Our student moved to Lincoln this past week, and this young man has grown and developed far beyond anyone's expectations.

Kylie deserves to be the employee of the month because of the day-to-day love and hard work she gives to the children at Paddock Lane.

"She is appreciated and one of a kind," said her nominator.

Beatrice After School Learning Time

Students, staff have fun when the school bell rings

What do you like best about the after-school program at

Lincoln?

My most memorable moment - Parent Engagement Night in October. Parent and child were sitting on the floor with their hands in a box feeling for the mystery items. Another parent and child were practicing spelling words with markers. One family was stamping fingerprints on balloons while younger brother was trying to blow up a balloon. I heard questions from a mom about KEVA plank challenge with apples -every station the child was explaining to mom, dad or grandma what to do, or how to do the activity.

Deborah Hermance, site supervisor

Paddock Lane?

"I would have to say that one of my most favorite memories from BLAST is when we do hands-on activities. I will not forget the looks on the kids' faces the first time we made slime. They were so excited. Especially when they found out they could take it home. I don't think their parents were as excited about that as they were. We have made different types of slime throughout the year. We have made fluffy slime, magnetic slime, sand slime, color changing slime, and regular slime. Not all of them have worked, but the kids are still very happy to try whenever we break out the ingredients."

Stacy Plessel, site supervisor

Stoddard?

It's hard to decide on just one moment because we see such excitement from the kids on a daily basis. I love when kids get excited over blasting off rockets, building towers with boxes, when they see experiments work , or when parents come and the kids want to stay and play. Seeing smiles and accomplishments is awesome!

Diane Summers, site supervisor

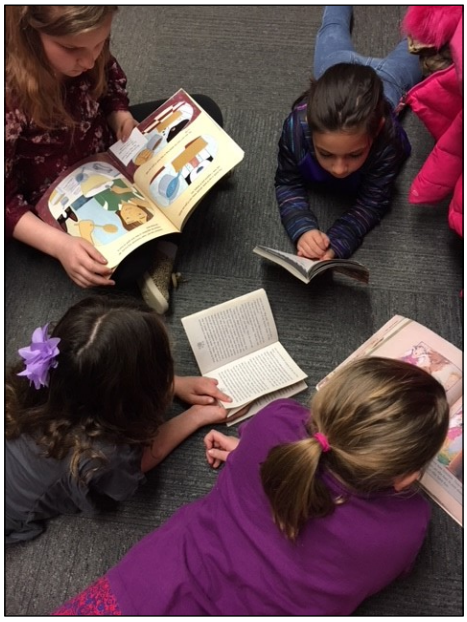
...after school staff complete Click2Science training

BLAST staff members attend Click2Science training in February. The afterschool program has focused on STEM related activities, in addition to helping with homework and just having fun.

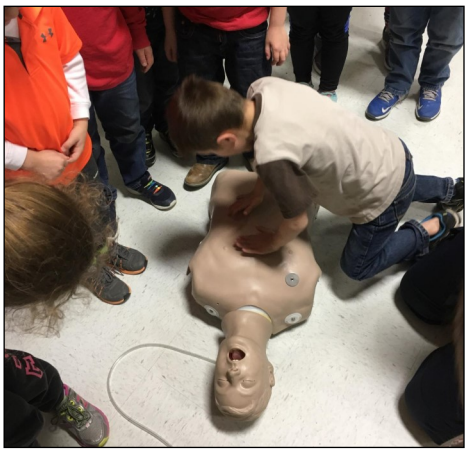
Beatrice Learning After School Time

Students encouraged to do their very best...

...with reading and homework



...learning about rockets, birds, our brains, our hearts, animals



Beatrice Learning After School Time

Working Wednesdays encourages students to understand

Huls Towing helps students learn how pulleys work

During April the Working Wednesdays project made its debut with the help of Huls Body Shop, Inc. On Monday and Tuesday students learned about pulleys and then on Wednesday Wayne Huls brought his tow truck and the students got to see pulleys in action.

During the 2018-19 school year afterschool students will learn about how a new item works each month and a local business/educator will demonstrate the item for students.

They first staked their claim with Beatrice Public Schools and now are among the best in the nation

Leonard leads Beatrice Mary YMCA

'The relationships that I developed with the teachers really helped develop the person that I wanted to become. As a child and especially a teenager you find out very quickly that life is tough. I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life in high school. I had no idea who I was, what I was passionate about or let alone where I would go. What I do remember are teachers like Anita Bauman who greeted me with a smile when I walked into class and who was sincerely interested in my day. Teachers like Sandi Hoffman who was not only interested in how I was doing academically but was like a second mom to me, who made sure I got to all of my swim meets, who encouraged me when I was struggling and commended me when I was doing well. Teachers like Jim Weeks who when in front of a room you could feel his passion and love for whatever the topic was that day. Teachers like Jim Bowers who spent countless hours after school helping me with Algebra so that I understood every step. To me it's the kindness, dedication, passion and modeling that helped frame who I am today.

Alison Steinkamp Leonard

Beatrice Public Schools All-Stars
Alison Leonard, class of 1994

Alison Leonard is the Chief Executive Officer of the Beatrice YMCA. She graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and was the program director at the Beatrice YMCA before being named to the top spot in July, 2014.

"Every day I get to walk side-by-side with our neighbors to make sure that everyone, no matter what, has the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive," said Leonard, "I get to model kindness and passion. I get to demonstrate a sincere care for others, for their needs and well-being."

One aspect of her job she particularly likes is the opportunity to help build leaders. "Leaders that I hope help build a stronger community. A community that I was born and raised in, one I hold near and dear to my heart," said Leonard.

Leonard is involved in many local organizations including Rotary Club, Blue Valley Behavioral Health Board, and is actively involved in the Summer Back Pack Program. She is a graduate of Leadership Beatrice and Executive Preparatory Institute of the YMCA of the USA.

Three goals guide Leonard. "In today's world we need more kindness, more work on relationships and what it means to be here for one another," said Leonard.

Chief Executive Officer Alison Leonard in the Fitness Center at the YMCA.

Board approves ESU #5 special education contract

Kylie Essam, Paddock Lane paraprofessional, was recognized by Principal Betty Replogle as the March Employee of the Month. She received $50 in Chamber Bucks.

Students recognized for their state runner-up finish in the Cheer Tumbling Division were Emilee Burck, Megan Hoffman, Jayden Huenink, Emma Leners, Jordan Maschmann, Sierra Saathoff and Addy Timmerman.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Pat Nauroth said the footings have been poured for the new Paddock Lane addition. He also shared that some water main replacement is being planned by the city for April and it may impact Stoddard Elementary. He said board members are encouraged to attend the presentation by students in the Big Red Science and Math program before the board meeting on May 14.

Committee of the Whole

Doris Martin, vice-president, said the following topics were discussed at the January Committee of the Whole including the Compass Program, updated job descriptions, facility use agreement, potential options for changes to the elementary structure and a short term budget recommendation.

STANCE Report

Board member Steve Winter shared information on LB988 which addresses mental and behavioral health service needs in schools. Next, he shared that LB295 is a bill that is set up to give public funds to private school scholarships and would increase the demand on property taxes. LB244 would require the collection of sales taxes, but will most likely be vetoed by the Governor. Nauroth said several property tax bills did not make it out of committee.

School, Community, & Staff Relations Committee

Board member Janet Byars said the committee met on Feb. 9 at Lincoln Elementary, on Feb. 23 at Stoddard Elementary and on Feb. 28 with all certified staff. Most of the time at Lincoln was spent discussing potential budget reductions. The Stoddard meeting was focused on the potential of grade-level buildings. The meeting with all certificated elementary staff was to receive input and feedback regarding the proposed options for elementary restructuring.

Elementary Structure

Paddock Lane Principal Betty Replogle said meetings about elementary structure have been held in all three elementary buildings to share information on the possible options for elementary structure moving forward. Both Replogle and Kevin Janssen, Lincoln and Stoddard principal noted some of the common concerns that parents mentioned were bussing/transportation, splitting up siblings becoming the norm, Paddock Lane as the hub for special education services, and the possibility of families volunteering to move buildings.

Action Agenda

The board approved the Special Education contract with ESU 5 for the 2018-19 school year.

Approval was given to items 1 through 5 on the Budget/Staffing recommendation.

Administrators' Report

Beth Cordry-Hookstra, director of special education, said the district is bringing in Brooks Gibbs. He is an entertaining speaker that incorporates anti-bullying, student resiliency and the golden rule into his presentation for students. Nauroth said this is part of ongoing items towards the district's anti-bullying efforts. Cordry-Hookstra added that Gibbs has added an online program that has been shared with the counselors.

Jackie Nielsen, director of curriculum, told the board that this year the district is partnering with the Beatrice Educational Foundation to add some afternoon sessions to the Best Possible Summer learning experience. Nielsen said the Best Possible summer is a great experience for kids and she is hopeful that it will continue to grow each year.

Next Meetings

A Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on April 26 at 6 p.m. at the Administration Building. The next board meeting will be on May 14 at 7 p.m. in the Central Administration Building.

Beatrice Public Schools Board of Education

Janet Byars, Treasurer
Doris Martin, Vice-President
Lisa Pieper
Nancy Sedlacek
Steve Winter
Jon Zimmerman, President

Pat Nauroth, Superintendent