

the Beat

a monthly electronic bulletin board with news, salutes and more

Smith counting down

Theresa Smith will retire this summer after 26 years with Beatrice Public Schools. She is currently the principal at Lincoln and Cedar.

"I'll miss working with teachers and kids," Smith said. "Students are a lot of fun to work with. And I'll miss making decisions and solving problems. Education has been a part of my life for a long time."

Smith is also the Beatrice Public Schools preschool program director, a position she's held for about four years in addition to her balancing act at both schools. She was the assistant principal at Beatrice Middle School for three years, a seventh grade language arts teacher there for 10 years

and spent about six years teaching other schools before her time with BPS.

Focusing on student needs is a strength of Smith. "It has been my privilege to work with Smith the past 4 years. During this time I have known her to be student centered, an advocate for children. I appreciate how she thinks through issues and is able to express her ideas in ways that are both compelling and easy to understand. I will miss her leadership, but wish her the best as she starts a new phase of her life," said Superintendent Pat Nauroth.

Being an elementary principal is not all about sitting behind a desk. Principal Teresa Smith talks to a student sitting under the table.



Walters named Employee of the Month

Chelesy Walters, high school family consumer science teacher, is the April Employee of the Month.

Chelesy is an energetic teacher who is enthusiastic and extremely positive. She always has a smile on her face!

One nominator said, "I have had the privilege of knowing Chelesy when she was a student here and now as a teacher. Throughout this year I have participated in some student activities with her food classes, I have been an Iron Chef Judge for a pork chop challenge and a taste tester for a pasta and cream cheese challenge. I have seen many of the fine food creations some of the classes have created such as beautiful cup cakes plated very professionally."

But what affected me most was the passion the kids showed when presenting their food; they stood tall, made eye contact, and were excited to explain their project. They were very knowledgeable explaining how they cooked their meals and used various methods such as brazing. They also used all of the ingredients which included cilantro. The students



Chelesy Walters presents a unit on foods from South America.

were adventurous with spices which was very impressive!

A lot of thought and creativity was used considering at times Miss Walters would challenge them with two odd ingredients and they had to put it all together. They all showed a sense of pride and it was evident through their smiling faces and the light in their eyes. They truly cared about their work!

I feel Miss Walters is not only challenging her students to learn a basic life skill of cooking, but is propelling them to think and problem solve outside the box, and

work with partners which is of vital importance in life."

Another staff member said, "Chelsey recently had her Pro Start class prepare a meal for Warren's Table. Not only was that a great experience for her students in the preparation techniques, but was also a great community service activity. She gave her Pro-Start students an experience of preparing a meal and serving a meal to underprivileged residents which provided them with a great learning experience and a way to see an environment they may have never experienced.

Additionally, Chelesy had her Pro Start students serve at the Soup Bowl dinner to support our Back Pack Program, and as I understand, their soup was quite successful. This was another awesome display of helping the community, and teaching students the importance of giving back.

Chelesy exudes this enthusiasm in all of her classes. She is a great addition to Beatrice High School, and works hard to be the best teacher possible and create well-rounded students."

Taking a Close Look

Take a **closer** look!
BPS

New graduation requirements require every junior to complete two new courses, “Personal Finance and Career Readiness,” which helps students prepare for life beyond high school. As a part of the Career Readiness portion students research careers they are interested in and then plan and participate in a job shadow. “This has been a great experience for our students. The community has been very receptive to having students come into their businesses and sharing about their careers. Students are amazed at how many opportunities are available in Beatrice, this hands-on experience has been inspiring.” said Brenda Gronewold. She developed the Career Readiness course. She shared the following quotes which illustrate the variety of careers the students have explored. One hundred and fifty-six students completed the 2-4 hour job shadows, and then reported back to the class what they learned.

The collage features a central circular diagram titled "CORE ACADEMICS" with the NCE logo. The diagram is divided into several colored segments representing different subject areas: Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics; Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources; Communication & Information Systems; Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics; Skilled & Technical Sciences; Health Sciences; Human Sciences and Education; and Business, Marketing, and Management. Surrounding this central diagram are numerous photos of students in various career settings, each with a label: Catering, Butcher, Vet Tech, Audio Studio, Diesel Mechanic, Broadcasting, Computer Repair, Certified Public Accountant, Health Entrepreneur, Education, Fire Department, Nurse Practitioner, Radiology Tech, Heating & Air Conditioning, Plastic/Steel Manufacturing, and Construction. A banner for "Blackburn Technologies" is also visible in the collage.

Taking a Close Look



Vet Tech

I job shadowed Robin Dishman at Pony Express Vet Clinic. I mainly watched Robin complete yearly shots for animals, clipped nails, and did the main check-ups on her patients. This experience was joyful to see how Robin treats her patients in a kind manner.

~A Beach



Butcher

The best part of my job shadow at Justin's Meats was the enjoyment of preparing the meat for the display case and then interacting with all the customers that came in to shop.

~T Cornelus

Diesel Mechanic

Being a mechanic is more than working on equipment. Much of their time is spent ordering parts, documenting work, and tracking the completion of repairs for the customers. Although the shop was very busy, it was nice to know each mechanic has their own area.

~L McAllister



Recording & Production Studio

I thought my trip to Audio DNA Recording & Production Studio was awesome and very interesting. The opportunity to learn about equipment and tasks I'll have to do in my future excited me a lot. Going to my job shadow boosted my motivation and got me even more embellished in this career field. I'm ready to get out in the field of work.

~D Bassinger

Broadcasting

My experience with Bryan was inspiring. One thing he cherishes the most is the ability to promote student athletes, and that is one reason he has stayed committed to Beatrice. He also told me to 'get a degree in something', 'go to college'.

~J Berry



Computer Repair

This career was SO intense and fast paced, with so many things going on at the same time. Constantly juggling many repairs and paying attention to many different things.

~A May

Taking a Close Look

Building Construction

Going to the actual job site was really a good experience. Shadowing at Brett Wells' Construction allowed me to meet many employees and learn about the different responsibilities each position required. As the owner, he employs many from framers and painters, to those in supervisor positions. ~ J Stevens



HVAC - Heating & Air Conditioning

A career in HVAC is busy. It was surprising that after a short training, they allowed me to actually do some hands-on experience. They allowed me to work on round flex and metal square duct work as well as adding brackets for the outside units.

~ A Shaw



Plastic & Steel Manufacturing

I was very impressed by the process and machinery used in HDP and cross-linked polyethylene (plastic). During this experience, I learned a lot about this field and feel that the pay supports this as a solid pick for anyone. ~J Baumfalk



Nurse Practitioner

During this job shadow I watched routine things like check-ups and shots. I really enjoyed watching them perform a procedure on a new born, and was able to help assist. This experience confirmed that a career in the medical field is for me.

~J Huenink



Radiology Tech

At first job shadowing with Kirstin was a little nerve wrecking, because there were many things that she had to do at once. The patients were very kind and understanding as to why I was following around Kirstin and asking lots of questions, which made the job shadow less nerve wrecking. Kirstin also showed me how they can observe 3-D scans and she gave me a tour of the hospital. ~K Emory



Taking a Close Look

Early Childhood Education

The best thing I liked about my job shadow was working with the kids. Helping them with their class work, hearing the stories and working with the teacher! I didn't like how sometimes the kids wouldn't listen to the teacher, but she disciplines really well in an acceptable and positive manner which I thought was cool as well.

~S Carstens

Beatrice Fire Department

During the job shadow I was able to open a fire hydrant. It was fun to experience the explosion of water. We also got a ride in the fire truck, but had to wipe it down when we returned to the fire station.

~ S Hellmer

Gage County Dispatch Center

During my job shadow, I listened to some very serious calls, some amusing calls, and watched an investigation from a security camera in the dispatch office that was interesting. This experience reassured me that this is the career field I want to pursue. Some things I really enjoyed are things I can not share due to the privacy laws.

~A Bartholomew



Certified Public Accountant

I got the opportunity to job shadow Bobbie Johnson, at Meyer's & Associates. I really enjoyed doing this because it gave me a better insight of what accountants do on a daily basis. I found this to be a valuable experience because I now know what I am going to pursue in college, and didn't have to waste thousands of dollars figuring it out.

~J Theye

Catering Business

I enjoyed job shadowing at Colleen's Catering because of the calm & fun environment that allowed me to learn a lot. I love making/preparing food that others love to eat, and working with people. Colleen is very good at what she does. ~I Jiminez



Health Entrepreneur

During my job shadow, I was provided an opportunity to watch and study what Dr. Ruiz does and see first-hand how he helps people through workout plans and nutritional advice and diets.

~C Jurgens



Stake Your Claim

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

Coates is successful, civic minded businessman



"To be perfectly honest, when I was a young student I didn't believe I was gaining anything from school. It wasn't until I furthered my education in college and pursued my career that I realized I actually had gained all the necessary building blocks I need to be successful in life from the Beatrice Public School System.

I can remember the names of every one of my Elementary School teachers and several of my higher education teachers, as well. Mrs. Smith taught me to read, while Mr. Henry sparked my interest in Electrical Science. He had an electrostatic machine in

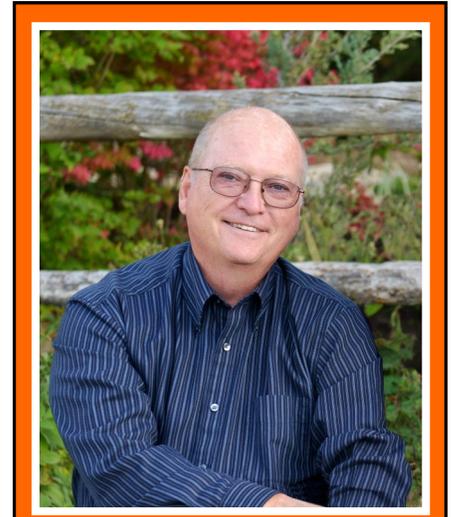
his classroom and all the students would stand in a circle and when the person nearest to the machine would touch it, it would create an electric arc between all our hands. It was fascinating.

In school I wondered why we would waste our time on subjects like Geometry and Trigonometry where I couldn't see a practical application as a young student. These classes were critical to my career. I use Geometry every day in my Physics and Instrumentation Work. I use Trigonometry every day in my Electrical Engineering. Those classes gave me the building blocks for further education at college. Without what I had learned, I would have never been able to further my education because I wouldn't have had the building blocks to continue to expand on that knowledge.

The greatest gift I gained from Beatrice Public Schools was the ability to learn. I gained a desire to learn more on my own and became self-taught on subjects I wanted deeper understanding of. That vital skill gave me the opportunity to become a Master Electrician, Electrical Engineer (self-taught), Instrumentation Engineer, Computer Science Literate & Management Skills & the Entrepreneur of a Multi-million dollar business and Philanthropist for children in need. Without the building blocks I gained in the Beatrice Public School System, I would never have been able to be who I am today.



Scott Coates and his family shop for coats for the foundation they started.



Beatrice Public Schools All-Stars

Scott Coates, class of 1971

Scott Coates, class of 1971, went from the halls of Beatrice High School to being CEO of a company he founded. Coates Electrical and Instrumentation Inc. (CE&I) is a full service electrical contractor specializing in industrial electrical, communications, instrumentation, power, and control systems.

He started his company in 1994. Prior to 1994, leaving nothing to chance, Scott began learning business law and accounting principles. He began training his first apprentices, Jason Coates and Shawn Lueders, who later became founding members of the corporation. Scott, Jason & Shawn began wiring small residential remodels and service projects on nights and weekends. This was the beginning of what would prove to be a powerful collaboration of their efforts.

During these first few small projects the three of them started wiring custom homes and learned their first valuable lessons, which have helped to form the efficient business model the corporation utilizes today. In April of 1996, Scott started working for the business full time and two weeks later Jason and Shawn joined him.

Over the years they have tried to read the ever changing market and predict where the greatest opportunities would be. This has led them from construction of industrial mining installations to wiring homes, remodeling grocery stores, building new stores, automation, integration, chemical weapons destruction, robotic control, handling of hazardous & nuclear waste, building and remodeling of schools, churches, theaters, maintaining oil refineries, constructing hydrogen and industrial gas plants, and many other applications of power, automation, integration and control.

As the company has grown, many key individuals have been helpful to their success. Coates is proud to have created a highly successful and skilled team to meet the needs of his customers.

In addition, he and his wife Leslee started Coates for Kids. In 2005 Coates Electrical donated new coats and gloves for 34 children. The program continued to grow and in 2015 the program was able to provide 2,500 children with new warm coats and mittens.

Board approves hiring elementary principal

Chelesy Walters, high school Family Consumer Science teacher, was named the April Employee of the Month. She received a plaque and \$50 in Beatrice Bucks.

The Division I State Runner-Up Reading Classic Team of Sean Carrera, Annie Gleason, Taionna Farley-Martin, Teanna Stohs and Tucker Thatcher were recognized. Marian Wallen is the coach.

The Division 2 State Runner-Up Reading classic Team of Myah Hood, Arihanna Marlatt, Bryan Price, Emma Stevens and Sean Wright were also recognized. Amy Breeden is the coach.

Michaela Jones was honored for being named to the first team all-state basketball, second team super state and receiving all conference honors. Tilden Bardsley was honored for his selection to the second team all-state basketball as well as receiving all conference honors.

Superintendent Report

Superintendent Pat Nauroth informed the Board the district received a twenty-first century grant that will allow the district to provide after-school activities at the three elementary schools.

He then provided a legislative update on LB461, LB640, and LB409. The bills deal with taxes, the TEEOSA formula and the school funding formula which could all be affected.

Nauroth also shared that the new facility at Paddock Lane could utilize the original architect (DLR) or the Board could start over and have other firms do some bidding on the project also. Board members requested further discussion at the April COW meeting.

Student Update

Student Board member Natalie Doering said Stoddard is hosting a Runza Night on April 24 while Paddock Lane is having a Dairy Queen night on April 20.

Paddock Lane is working on special activities for the Walk the Track event and one includes a staff "Kiss a Pig" competition. The Paddock Lane school carnival is scheduled for May 3. Both schools held NeSA rallies on March 29 and students that met or exceeded testing expectations were honored. Lincoln Elementary hosted its Family Fun Night on April 7. The Cedar PTO took class pictures today and will be creating a memory book for the Cedar students. Elementary Track and

Field Day is scheduled for April 27 and many classes will be taking field trips this month also.

Middle school student council and SADD members attended a leadership conference. On April 12 the eighth graders will visit UNL for their College Access Day.

At the high school, prom was held last weekend and the theme was "Under the Sea." On April 19 all juniors will take the ACT, sophomores will take the PreACT, and freshmen will take the MAPS test.

Committee of the Whole

Nancy Sedlacek said the Committee of the Whole met on March 23 and the following topics were discussed; social studies curriculum, YMCA collaboration, and an update by Nauroth on the city land request, elementary transition plan and administrative staffing.

School Community & Staff Relations Committee

Janet Byars reported that the committee met twice since the last Board meeting; March 15 at SCC with preschool staff and March 31 at Paddock Lane. The preschool meeting was very positive as staff members are excited for the move to a single site.

The Paddock Lane meeting addressed many of the changes happening next year in the elementary buildings. Staff and room assignments have been made for next year and staff are very pleased that Betty Replogle will be in the building full-time. Byars added that the staff were busy working on the cooperative "little library" projects with Leadership Beatrice.

Action Agenda

The board approved the first reading on five policies including guidelines for elementary classes, suspension and debarment as a result of the IDEA grant monitoring visit, inventories, employment of administrators other than the superintendent of schools, and the job description for the director of early childhood.

The board approved the administrative recommendations for the next school year and the hiring of Kevin Janssen as the new elementary administrator for Lincoln and Stoddard.

The board then approved a resolution

supporting the Principles of Nebraskans United for Property Tax Reform and Education.

Administrator's Report

A video was shared with Board members that highlighted the early education program as well as the parent feedback received via a recent survey. Missy Timmerman shared five statistics to remember about early childhood development. She then provided current enrollment and sections numbers as well as information on some of the family events that occurred throughout the school year including a Tailgate, Breakfast with Santa and a Daniel Tiger event. She then highlighted the events that are taking place during the upcoming Week of the Young Child and the preschool picnic scheduled for May 10. Timmerman said there are already 188 children registered for preschool for next year.

Next Meeting

The next committee of the whole meeting will be May 25 at 6 p.m. at the Central Administration Building. The next Board of Education meeting will be on June 12 at 7 p.m. at the Central Administration Building.

Favorite Teacher



Erin Hamilton, high school math, was recently honored by the Beatrice Daily Sun as Gage County's Favorite Teacher. The presentation was made by Business Manager John Brazell.