

THE RAM PAGE

2nd Quarter

• Developing Leaders One Student at a Time •

December 16, 2022

Rams Salute Veterans



Leigha retires the state flag at the Veteran's assembly.

On November 11th, Scott City hosted its annual Veteran's Day assembly in the High School gym. It was our first traditional in person Veteran's assembly since Covid. The middle school student council conducted this event. Joshua and Leigha did the posting of colors. The high school band played "Salute to America" and "Star Spangled Banner". Middle school student council secretary, Ava Estes, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Then the Elementary Honor Choir sang "Color Me America". Next, our student council President, Asher Spinks, introduced our guest veterans. Then our guests one by one passed the microphone and introduced themselves and said what branch of the military they were in and for how many years. Our Elementary Honor Choir sang, "Armed Forces Salute" afterwards.

Layla Estes, student council vice-president, introduced our guest speaker, Toby Jordan. Toby Jordan spoke to the audience about his journey through the military. Then our Honor Choir sang, "God Bless the USA". The high school band then played "Tribute to America". The closing ceremony was presented by William Backfisch, student council treasurer. As we retired the colors the high school band played, "Taps". The veterans were treated to a cookies and punch reception in the cafeteria after the assembly. The attendants that served as hosts at our event were: Kloe, Evie, Hunter, and Ethan.

By: Ava

New Library Media Center has Future in Mind

I interviewed Mrs. Pruden about how she feels about the new 5-12 Library Media Center. Mrs. Pruden got a new library over the summer with big changes. Mrs. Pruden said she really likes the new carpet, the color scheme, and how everything looks so much more modern. The only thing that she misses is having a sink. The process of renovating the library was quick, with it being completely renovated over the summer. Mrs. Pruden and crew cleaned everything out of the old library during the beginning of summer school. The construction was finished around Aug. 1st. She is getting new tables and chairs by the end of the semester. The e-gaming machines are not installed yet, but they will be up and going once all of the furniture arrives for them. The new media room is also in the process of being completed with a green screen and sound board. It's a work in progress with finishing touches being applied routinely. Mrs. Pruden

didn't choose to change the library herself, but about five years ago when she took over as the librarian, she mentioned to Mr. Umfleet at a school board meeting that if the district ever did another bond issue, she would really like to update the library. The library was outdated and nothing had been changed in a really long time. She explains, "I think our kids will really like the media center when it's finished because they probably know more about it than some of the adults, so I think that will be right up their alley and they will enjoy creating with that new equipment." All of the new bookcase units were big enough to store all of the existing books. Mrs. Pruden did some weeding before the renovation took place, but between the shelves that she already had and the new units, she was able to store everything with a little bit of room leftover. Everyone agrees the library is a big improvement!

By: Peyton



High school students, Blade, Tyler, & Jennifer have 4th hr. Study Hall in the new Library Media Center.



Middle School Utilizes Courtyard Area

I interviewed Mrs. Ort about the changes to the courtyard. I started by asking her, "How did we come up with the idea to add things to the courtyard?" Ort said, "We got some suggestions from adults." I then asked, "Who uses the equipment and when do they use it?" She replied, "Mainly middle school. They use it during lunch and advisory. High School is going to start using it more, but right now mainly middle school." I then asked, "Who funded the new equipment?" She said, "The middle school student council funded the Gaga Pit and the tables with donations." Next, I asked "What all was added to the courtyard specifically?" Ort said, "We added four tables and a 15 foot Gaga Pit. Coach Henry also brought out some of her P.E. equipment, but that stuff is hers." That led to my next question which was, "Could you explain exactly what a Gaga Pit is for those who may not know?" She said, "It is an octagon pit that you play a ball game in. The point of the game is to hit the ball at someone below the knee and if you get hit, you step out of the pit." My last question for Mrs. Ort was, "Do you plan on adding any more equipment out in the courtyard?" She said, "Yes, I don't have a problem with it as long as the kids will use it."



By: Destiny

Teacher Retirement Spotlight: O' Brien

By: Madison

For the remainder of the school year we are going to highlight three faculty members who will be retiring at the end of the year. This quarter I interviewed science teacher, Stephen O'Brien. The first question I asked him was where he attended high school and college. He replied with, "I attended Scott City, K-12 and I went to college at Southeast Missouri State." Next I asked him how long he taught for. He replied with, "28 1/2 years." Then I asked him if he taught anywhere else and he answered with, "East Prairie." I asked Mr. O'Brien why he wanted to get into teaching. He said, "Probably my original thoughts on wanting to teach was that I wanted to coach and so to get into coaching I had to teach something. I was interested in Science, so I thought I would try to teach Science, and then I could coach." Next, I asked Mr. O'Brien what his favorite thing about teaching has been. He answered, "I would say that my favorite thing about teaching has kind of changed over the years. First, it was having time off during the holidays, during the summer, and other occasions. I always thought that was nice, but as I started teaching, just being able to see kids that could start growing from year to year; seeing a kid from the beginning of the year then at the end and seeing their growth, that became very satisfying, probably the last 13-14 years. What I also enjoyed about teaching was that my own kids (while they were in school) I was able to see them, and it allowed me to spend more time with them." After that I asked what his least favorite thing about teaching was. He stated, "Sometimes teaching can be frustrating when you think you've put together the best lesson, you really thought you connected and you ask them a question later on, or give them a test, and later on they have no idea what they learned. That can be frustrating." I asked Mr. O'Brien, what all he has taught, and what extra duties he has done in his career? He responded with, "I have always taught Science. Over the years, I have taught middle school Science, and a lot of high school Science. I even taught a little bit of alternative school. I've done extra curricular activities like coaching football, helped coach basketball, assist baseball, and I even coached softball last year. I also help mow and do some things around the campus, drive a bus, just kinda anything that they ask me to do. Whenever we had the old football field I spent countless hours out there watering the field, fertilizing and mowing, trying to make it nice." Next, I asked him what he was to miss the most about teaching. He replied with, "I have got to know a lot of people over the years. The kids that I have taught when I first started are some of my good friends now. I won't be able to meet as many people. I enjoy talking to people and getting to know people. It's going to be a part of my life that I've always done that won't be there. It's going to be one of the things I miss, not being able to see all of these people I see on a daily basis." Lastly, I asked him what he was looking the most forward to in retirement. He answered with, "I'm really hoping for flexibility. You know kinda like if I wanted to do something else I could say, "Hey, I'm gonna do this today, or if I don't really wanna do that, I can do something else."

MS Halloween Dance By: Hayleigh

For my interview I sat down with middle school STUCO sponsor, Mrs. Heidi Schiwitz and asked her some questions about the first ever middle school Halloween dance. I asked her, "How did you come up with the dance idea?" Her response was, "Mrs. Ort and I were discussing some different fun ideas for this year and she loves Halloween and we know that middle school students can't wear costumes to school, so this was a way for students to still be able to dress up." Next, I asked, "Who won the costume contests?" Mrs. Schiwitz stated, "For the scariest, we had Jace who dressed up as a Red-eyed Creeper. For the funniest, we had Zane, who dressed up as a Sumo wrestler. For the most creative, we had Aleah and Stasha who dressed up as the 'Eat More Chicken' cows, and we had a tie on the Best Duos. We had the Scooby Doo characters, which were Cassidy and Hunter, and then we had the Grease characters which were; Sammy as Danny, and Lilly as Sandy from the movie. The overall winner was Jayden who dressed up as Barney, the dinosaur. He received a ten dollar gift card to Rhodes and a light up cup with candy in it. The other winners won a small bucket of candy. Next, I asked her if she thought the kids enjoyed the dance. She said, "They really seemed to enjoy it. There were some kids who weren't really dancers, but I think they had a fun time just getting to dress up. This grade is kinda hard to see what they like. We let the student council decide and they asked their friends if they would want to have the dance and they all said yes." Another thing I asked was if she thought we would have the dance again. Mrs. Schiwitz said, "It's a big possibility, yes!" We will let the student council decide, but I think it went well enough. We had 82 students attend, which is a huge hit for a dance!"



7th grade friends, Brylee & Kennadi enjoy the first middle school Halloween dance.

Rams Win Conference & Awards

By: Autumn

I sat down and interviewed Coach May about the 2022 season and how he felt about it. First I asked him how it felt to win the conference? Coach May said, "It was a great accomplishment. It was the first time we've won since I've been here." Which prompted me to ask when the last time SC won a conference title. He said, "We had a 3 way tie in 2004. The last time we won by ourselves was in 2000." I changed the subject to our new field, and asked, "How does it feel to play on the new field?" Coach May said, "The new field is unbelievable. It's the best facility in Southeast Missouri." While still staying on that topic I asked, "What does it feel to have this new facility at your alma-malta?" He said, "It makes me very proud and I hope it brings the community pride. It's amazing that we have something so nice for our kids." I switched the topic to our season record, and asked where the Rams ended up. He said, "We finished 9-2. We had a really good year." Next, I asked, "How hard was it for the Seniors to have their season end?" Coach MAY said, "Well it's always hard, and it's always gonna end. This was a really great group of seniors and they've worked really hard these past four years." Lastly, I asked about how he decided on the new black uniforms. He said, "I let the kids pick. I designed several ones. I let the seniors pick the ones they wanted." At the GridIron Banquet, the Rams picked up several prestigious awards. Coach May won SEMO South Conference Coach of the Year, Mark won the coveted Carr Trophy for being the best football player in the SEMO Conference. Trent won Defensive Player of the Year with the Derland Moore award, and Dillon won Lineman of the Year. Great season Rams!



Quarterback Mark Panagos & Running Back, Tyson Underwood get ready to score for the Rams on the new football field.

Community Spotlight

By: Kaylee

This quarter I interviewed Dustin Whitworth. Dustin Whitworth is the city administrator for Scott City. The new sidewalk and stoplight project was started by MODOT- Missouri Department of Transportation. They started this project for the safety of students whenever they are going back and forth from school and this allows other people to also walk to restaurants and gas stations such as Burger King, BP's, and more. They are also doing this to update the stoplights. Highway 61 also needed to be replaced, so it was a culmination of all those things that made this project come to pass. They are adding in new street lights, new stop lights, new sidewalks, ADA sidewalks, and an ADA compliant push button for whenever you are trying to walk across a street. MODOT has been talking about it for the last year and a half. They started getting the sitework ready for the last four months. In total, the project has been ongoing for the last two years. Dustin doesn't have an exact answer to when the project will be complete, but as soon as MODOT's finished, the city has a grant and will begin the placement of sidewalks that will come towards the school and will go all the way down Main Street down by Casey's and The Dollar General Store. This should help the community a lot because students will be able to walk back and forth to school, and other places around the area. Kids who live by Highway 61 will be able to ride their bikes to school over the new overpass to Kelso as well. It will also make our town more appealing with the new street lights, so it isn't so dark and dingy. They will also be more stable during strong winds or storms.



MODOT construction includes new traffic stop lights with crosswalks and sidewalks.

Staff Survivor

By: McKenzie

This quarter, I interviewed Elementary Principal Dr. Keisha Panagos. The first question I asked was, "What exactly is the Staff Survivor contest, and why is the district participating in it?" She said, "Every year we do a theme, and with everything that was going on I thought it would be a good idea to do a Survivor theme. I thought it would be fun and "outwit/outlast" is just something we thought the teacher and administrators felt kinda represented the last few years. We decided to do it districtwide. We thought it would be important just to get people from different buildings to get to know each other better on a more personal level." Next, I asked Dr. Panagos how she came up with this idea. She said she came up with this idea by thinking of a fun way to get everybody involved and have some friendly competition. "We got different colored bandanas for each team. We talked about it this summer at one of our meetings. We always do some type of theme and we thought Survivor would be fun this year", Dr Panagos explained. Next I asked her the benefits of the contest participation. She said, "One of the days we did team building and all the teams got together and made posters and just made a poster of all the years they have taught. There are 4 teams: Golddiggers, Darkside, Blue Bandits, and the Red Hot Rams." Then I asked Dr. Panagos how it's been going so far. She said, "It is great! We have a leader board that every team member goes on and tracks their points." Dr. Panagos does not think of it as a contest. It is a fun way to get everybody to step out of their comfort zone, have fun, and to let some stress out. It is just a fun way to get to know each other. We have some high school teachers who recognize elementary teachers, but don't really know them. We want everybody to get to know each other better. The main reason we started all of this is because we want to have good communication skills. We want our students to learn how to do the same thing!

