

THE RAM PAGE

3rd Quarter

• Developing Leaders One Student at a Time •

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New Gym is Ram Ready!



Superintendent Umfleet cuts the honorary ribbon signifying the opening of the new elementary gymnasium alongside board members and guests.

The final piece of the Bond issue was recently completed. I interviewed elementary PE teacher Michelle Holder about the new gymnasium. The first question I asked was if she was excited about the new gym? Her response was, "I am very excited because I have been in room 26 and it will be so much better to be back in my big gym." I then asked her how the transition was from the beginning to the end of the project. Mrs. Holder said, "In the beginning; when we were able to go outside, it wasn't too bad, but lately it has been a lot different because my routine had to change. I had to get people used to coming here. I had to get my kids not used to having a big space to play in and that was hard. The students adjusted, but we are ready to go to the new gym." I asked Mrs. Holder what all the new gym will be used for.

She explained, "I know it's going to be used for my classes, the Youth League basketball program, morning assemblies, and maybe even our music concerts." Then I asked what the plans are for the old gym. "They are cleaning it up and getting it ready for next year so elementary students can eat there so they don't have to eat so early in the day." The last question I asked was, "How long did it take for the new gym to be completed?" "They started at the end of last summer. They thought it was going to be finished in March, but we will be into it next week earlier than expected, so about six or seven months.", replied Mrs. Holder.

By: Hayleigh

SC to Host First Track Meet Since 2008

I interviewed high school track coach Travis Schiwitz about the first home Track & Field meet we will be hosting next month on our new track. My first question for him was, "How long has it been since we've had a track meet here?" Coach Schiwitz said, "It has been since 2008." My next question was, "Why could we not hold track meets here before now?" He replied, "Our track and facilities got into a condition where they needed updating." I then asked him when the first meet on the new track would take place. Coach Schiwitz answered, "Our home meet this year is on April 18th, 2023." Next, I asked him how he and the team felt about the upcoming meet. He said, "It's an awesome opportunity for us to be able to host a meet here. I know everybody involved; all the coaches and all of the athletes are very excited and proud to finally have a meet here." My next question was, "Why did we decide to build the new track?" He replied, "We have one of the

best communities and school districts in the whole state. I know all of our sports programs mean a lot to our community, and they decided they wanted the best for our students, and to make our sports facilities even better. We want to thank them and make them proud." My final question was, "What all goes into hosting a track meet?" Coach Schiwitz explained, "Outside of having the proper facilities, it takes a lot of volunteers to help run a track meet. There are 19 different events that are run at a track meet, so we'll need lots of help. We have to have timers, field event judges, scorers, starters, and announcers." Everyone involved with Scott City Track and Field (past and present) wants to thank the community, administration, and school board for all they've done to help make everything possible!



Cross Country members pose for their group Yearbook photo on the school's brand new track.

By: Destiny



Teacher Retirement Spotlight: Poole

By: Autumn

I interviewed Mrs. Poole about her upcoming retirement at the end of the year. My first question posed to her was, “How long have you taught at Scott City?” Mrs. Poole stated, “I have taught at Scott City for 28 years.” Since Mrs. Poole taught here for so long, I asked her what she will miss the most. She said, “All of the students, all of the fun times, and all the experiences I got to share.” Then I asked her what made her become a teacher. “Being inspired by my own high school teachers,” was her response. Next I asked Mrs. Poole where she attended college. She said, “I went to college at Southeast Missouri State University.” Scott City isn't the only place that Mrs. Poole has taught. She also taught one year at Notre Dame High School, and three years at Meridian High in Southern Illinois. Next, I asked her what classes she has taught throughout her career. “At Scott City, I've taught 7th grade FACS, 8th grade FACS, Food & Nutrition, Family Meals, Child Development, Advanced Child Development, Family and Individual Health, Interpersonal Relationships, and Housing and Interior Design,” she explained. Then I asked what extra duties she has sponsored or chaperoned throughout the years. “I've been the cheerleading sponsor, the FCCLA president, and a class sponsor,” she stated. I asked Mrs. Poole about her view on her retirement. “I'm in love with the idea of retirement, I'm not sure I'll love the reality of retirement, because I'm always so busy with schoolwork all the time that I don't know what I'll do with my time,” she replied. Finally, I asked her, “What advice would you give to the new teacher?” She responded with, “Take it one day at a time, and always remember that the first year is always horrible.” Junior FCCLA member Allison Bryant said, “My favorite memory with Mrs. Poole is our trip to California. On the plane she had to hold our hands because most of us hadn't flown before and we were scared. We will all miss Mrs. Poole very much, and it won't be the same without her. We have had many good times on our trips and even just spending time in her classroom. It will be very sad to see her go, but I know it is what she is ready for.”

Secretaries Say Goodbye



At the end of the school year, Scott City will say goodbye to two long-time secretaries. I sat down with Mrs. Kathy in the Middle School office and Ms.

Debbie in the Superintendent's office to get their thoughts on retirement. The first question I asked was how long they have been working for the district. Ms. Debbie said, “Thirty-seven years,” and Mrs. Kathy said, “Fifteen years.” The next question I asked was, “What are your plans after you retire?” Ms. Debbie said, “No definite plans right now; spend time with family and friends. Mrs. Kathy said, “Doing a lot of crafts and hanging out with family.” Next, I asked them what they were going to miss most about working for the district. Ms. Debbie said, “The people.” Mrs. Kathy said, “All the children and my co-workers, but mainly the kids.” The last question I asked was, “What advice would you give the new person?” Ms. Debbie said, “Just be consistent and thorough.” Mrs. Kathy said, “Stay positive and stay organized.”

By: McKenzie

MS Activity Day By: Kaylee

I had the chance to interview Ms. Porch about the first middle school Activity Day that was held on December 16th, 2022. The games that were played were: kickball, basketball, and dodgeball. The team that won each event was an 8th grade team called, "The Oompa Loompas". If you didn't want to participate in the games you could've gone to Mrs. Howell's room, which was a chill room to watch holiday movies, sleep, or play on your laptop. Another room that you could've gone to was Ms. Porch's room where you could play trivia. One last room that you could go to was room 111, which was a game room. Ms. Porch got the idea for Activity Day from the administration who asked if she and the Student Council would like to organize and set it up. Ms. Porch said that it wasn't that hard to set up, but it was a little hard to keep the games straight and remember who let her borrow what equipment. Ms. Porch felt like it was a successful, fun day. Ms. Porch also thinks that the students enjoyed it. She thinks that we might do another Activity Day. She isn't sure if it is just going to be a winter break thing, or if there will be a Spring activity day also.



Middle school students gear up for a game of Dodgeball at their first Activity Day before dismissing for Winter break.

HS Homecoming Week

By: Ava

The week of February 6th-10th was High School Basketball Homecoming week. The theme was, "Sink the Pirates". Monday was "Black-Out" Day. Tuesday was "Anything But a Backpack Day". Wednesday was "Generation Day". Seniors dressed as senior citizens, Juniors dressed as middle-aged parents, Sophomores dressed as college/frat students, and Freshmen dressed as babies or middle schoolers. Thursday was "Favorite Color Day", and Friday was the traditional "Blue and Gold Day". At Friday night's big game our Homecoming representatives were: Freshman, Aariah Rogers, Sophomore, Chloe Mckinley, and Junior, Zoe Minton. The Senior candidates were: Carly Gloth, Olivia Ponder, and Avarie O'Brien. Friday featured an Activity day sponsored by Pep Club and a Pep assembly with a lip-sync battle. The Freshmen won the lip sync battle and hall decorations, and the Sophomores won the Spirit Days. Scott City played the Perryville Pirates with a hard fought win of 54-48. Avarie O'Brien was crowned Homecoming Queen and was escorted by Kalen Conner. The Homecoming dance was held Saturday, Feb. 25th at The Front Porch where a good time was had by all.



Basketball Homecoming Queen underclassmen representatives and Senior candidate Carly Gloth pause for a head turn and smile in the lobby before walking the court with their escorts.

Community Spotlight-School Board Elections

By: Madison

In the month of April local school board elections take place. January is when the candidates file. This quarter I interviewed Superintendent, Micheal Umfleet about the upcoming election. The first question I asked him was when will voting take place? He replied, "April 4th." Then I asked what some of the duties of a school board member are. He answered with, "The school board members are the ones who decide who to hire, who to fire, if there are any big policies that need to be changed, but their biggest duty is representing the community." The next question I asked was, "How many board members are there?" He responded with, "There are seven board members, and right now we have three spots that will be up for election, and we have five people running for those spots." This prompted me to ask, "Who are the candidates running?" He said, "Heraleen Bowers, Kenny Ingvanson, and Nathan Littlepage are re-running for their chairs. The new candidates are Ashley Jackson and Matt Underwood." Candidate Matt Underwood is a former board member who resigned upon being employed by the district. Now that he is no longer employed by the district, he is seeking his seat back. Lastly I asked Mr. Umfleet, "What is the purpose of the school board?" He answered, "With public education, it is important that we have local control of our school and when I say local control, that means our community really decides what goes on and what direction we go with the school board. They are the ones who make those decisions." Good luck to all, and get out and vote!



Elementary playground equipment to receive updates (see article below).

Elementary Playground Updates

By: Peyton

The Elementary has received some new playground equipment this year. The last time the Rainbow playground equipment was replaced was in September of 2006. The blue and yellow equipment is even older than that. "It is old!", says elementary principal, Dr. Keisha Panogos. So far new swings have been added, sixteen to be exact! There are four, 4-base swings. Swings are the only new equipment on the playground so far, with more to come! All new Pre-K equipment and furniture has been ordered and is ready to be installed. Some old equipment was removed, or relocated because of our new elementary gym. Dr. Panogos explained, "The basketball court was removed due to the new gym, but the goals and everything were really old. Everything that could be saved and moved was moved. Another thing that was removed were the monkey bars. When they were trying to move the monkey bars, they bent to where they couldn't use them again, so they had to go. We lost our old swings since we got new ones. The old swings were in really bad shape. We are hoping to get new basketball goals. We're also hoping to get new monkey bars because the kids like playing on them. We are also wanting to get new re-surfacing." The Pre-K equipment still has to be put up. The new playground equipment is really popular among the students. Swings were one of the biggest things the kids wanted, so they were really important to get. "It just depends on the timeline of it all." Dr. Panogos says. She's hoping to get a new basketball court with new goals by the end of next year, but it might take a while because there is still a lot to do with the playground. Dr. Panogos hopes to get a rubber surface out there just like our new track. Something popular right now is the big pile of dirt that's sitting out there.

Dr. Panogos says, "The students love playing in the pile of dirt!"

