



# UPDATE



| BASEHOR-LINWOOD SCHOOLS |

## Men At Work

*Residential Carpentry II Class at BLHS Works to Fulfill Orders from the Community*

**R**esidential Carpentry II students at BLHS have been busy this year! Mr. Myer and his class of juniors and seniors just put the finishing touches on a playhouse they created for a Basehor community member, just one of five buildings they completed this semester.

Upon finding out that they were assigned a playhouse, they were surprised and had a lot of skepticism. The class typically designs the projects they build to help them estimate materials and costs. With this project, the only resource they had was a picture with total size listed.

“This was a great team project that provided some interesting challenges for the guys,” instructor Steve Myer said. “They didn’t have a set of plans so they had to estimate and scale on this project more than the normal shed framing



experience. The siding was different, more windows than normal, a different type of door, a steeper roof pitch and shutters. It had to be built in two large parts inside and be able to go back together outside the garage door opening.”

For this project, the Residential Carpentry II students began after Thanksgiving and worked for three weeks for about three hours a day, then delivered the playhouse to the Howell residence on December 15.

Mrs. Howell was very pleased with the playhouse and said, “I’m excited to be able to purchase this for my grandchildren, as it

is something that has always been on my bucket list.”

Residential Carpentry II students do a variety of construction projects throughout the year to see if a certain trade interests them more than another. For instance, they had the opportunity to pour a large driveway earlier in the semester, they build the play sets for the drama department, and repair and assemble odds and ends for staff.

If you are interested in purchasing a outdoor building, please contact Steve Myer at BLHS (913.724.2266).

### IN THIS ISSUE

Holiday Homecoming.....	2
Superintendent’s Message.....	3
Important Dates.....	3
A Message from the Board.....	4
Wreaths Across America.....	5
District Communication.....	6
Cool Schools Information.....	6
BLHS Career Fair .....	6
Standards of Excellence.....	7
SchoolReach Information.....	8

# A Holiday Homecoming

*GRES Kindergartner Surprised by Father's Homecoming*



**S**SG Timothy Irwin surprised his daughter, Viktoria, at Glenwood Ridge Elementary School on Thursday, December 15, by dropping in as the “Mystery Reader” in Mrs. Budimlija’s kindergarten classroom. He is currently stationed at Fort Bliss, near El Paso, TX, as a Military Policeman and has been away since August, aside from a quick weekend

home for Viktoria’s 6th birthday in October.

Mr. Irwin has previously spent time in Iraq, one stint after Viktoria was born from 2009-2010, another in Iraq from 2004-2005 and in 2002-2003, he was stationed in Kosovo.

He says that even though it’s hard to be in Texas and not see his family on a regular basis, it is more

convenient than being overseas because “it’s harder to coordinate times to talk to family with the different time zones, and you can’t just come home for a weekend because of the travel time.”

After he surprised Viktoria by walking into her classroom, Mr. Irwin answered questions from kindergartners and read them *Santa Duck*, which Viktoria chose.

Mr. Irwin will be home for two weeks to celebrate the holidays by spending time with his wife and daughter, going to Cabela’s and maybe even the movie theater to see “The Muppets” movie.

Viktoria said she was “very excited” to see her father and that it was a surprise to her. She admitted that she doesn’t like when he is gone and added that, “once I cried because he was away.”



# Brownback's New School Finance Plan

*A Message from Superintendent David Howard*

**G**overnor Sam Brownback released a new school finance plan this week that will be a hot topic for the upcoming legislative session. The new plan is very simplistic in nature, as it will distribute K-12 money based solely on a head count of students.

The plan equalizes aid to school districts based on averaging taxable statewide property valuation per pupil, and once that is equalized, it is up to the local school district to spend that money or raise more locally to educate their students.

All previous weighting based on at-risk students, declining enrollment, English as a Second Language and transportation are gone. The only weighting that will continue would be funding for Special Education. Under the new plan, it's purely head count that determines a district's funding.

This plan is much different than what had been touted throughout the state over the last month or so. The previous plan had proposals for block grants based on pupil density, at-risk students, high poverty areas and teacher incentives. Also removed from the plan was a local option sales tax for education. However, the new plan will remove the cap on a local district's ability to raise taxes for their own district, subject to a protest petition.

The new formula wouldn't go into effect until the 2013-14 school

year and would cost the state an additional \$45.1 million to reach the new base state aid per pupil of \$4,492.

The equalization in the new formula will benefit approximately half of the school districts in Kansas. Unfortunately, Basehor-Linwood is not one of those districts.

I have several concerns about the new formula, as do many of my colleagues. One area of concern is with kindergarten students. The Governor's plan will "count" kindergarten students as full-time students or 1.0, as opposed to how they are currently counted, which is half-time or .5. However, according to the spreadsheets that have been distributed, kindergartners (although counted as 1.0) will not be funded full-time!

One thing that I'm relatively certain of is that the new finance formula will go through much scrutiny in the upcoming legislative session and the final plan may look much different than what is currently being proposed (that is if a new plan can even pass both houses of our legislature).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.



## Mark Your Calendar...

**Wednesday, December 21**  
End of Second Quarter

**Tues., Dec. 22 - Tues., Jan. 3**  
No School

**Friday, January 6**  
Report Cards Distributed  
Cool Schools Assembly

**Monday, January 16**  
No School; In-service/  
Collaboration

**Thursday, February 9**  
1/2 Day of School - P/T  
Conferences

**Friday, February 10**  
No School; Vacation Day

**Monday, February 13**  
No School; In-service/  
Collaboration

**Friday, March 16**  
No School; Collaboration/  
Teacher Work Day

**Mon., Mar. 19 - Fri., Mar. 23**  
No School; Vacation Days

## USD 458

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dayna Miller, President  
Eric Dove, Vice President  
Lori Van Fleet  
Gary Johnson  
Jeané Redmond  
Richard Zamora

### BOE MEETING DATES\*

January 9, 2012  
February 13, 2012  
March 12, 2012  
April 9, 2012  
May 14, 2012  
June 11, 2012

\*All meetings take place at 6 p.m. in the Lou Haney Board Room at the District Office except April 9, which will be held at the Linwood Elementary School Multipurpose Room in Linwood.

# All Students Developing and Reaching Their Potential

*A Message from Board of Education President Dayna Miller*

**W**ow! It feels like the school year just began, and now we are already breaking for the holidays! There is no doubt the Basehor-Linwood School District has started the year off strong!

From learning that we made AYP as a District to the huge improvement in ACT scores at BLHS, it is obvious that our mission of "All Students Developing and Reaching Their Potential" is a major focus for our administrators and teachers in the District.

As elected leaders, Board of Education members take this mission seriously. One of our Board goals is Educating the Whole Child, and I think it is evident that with the addition of honors courses and new pathways at

BLHS, and with increased rigor and MTSS strategies in all buildings, we are striving to meet this goal. We are working to give as many options to students as possible, whether they're preparing for assessments, college, the military or the workforce.

Lastly, as you may have heard, we have a board vacancy as the result of Wynne Coleman's recent career move. We will officially post the vacancy in January, but if you are interested in running for or have any questions regarding the position, please contact Superintendent David Howard at 913.724.1396.

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break!

*Dayna Miller*



L to R. USD 458 Board of Education members: Mr. Gary Johnson, Mrs. Jeané Redmond, Mrs. Dayna Miller, Mrs. Lori Van Fleet, Mr. Richard Zamora and Mr. Eric Dove.



**B**IS fifth graders were able to see the fruits of their labor Saturday, Dec. 10 when they placed wreaths on graves at Leavenworth National Cemetery as a part of their Wreaths Across America project.

About 30 students and their families were a part of about 300 people there to honor fallen soldiers.

Through bake sales, t-shirt sales and donations, the BIS fifth graders raised \$3,700, which purchased 370 wreaths for their Wreaths Across America donation. The company the wreaths are purchased from more than doubled the 370, which gave the students over 800 wreaths to place on graves.

The BIS fifth graders kicked off their Wreaths Across America project on November 10 with a Veteran's Day celebration at school. The Patriot Guard rode into the BIS parking lot while the Fairmount Township displayed the large American flag on the truck's extended ladder.

Third, fourth and fifth graders heard members of the Patriot Guard speak, asked them questions, and honored veterans with a patriotic video and artwork.

For the past four years, 5th graders have raised enough money to purchase over 800 wreaths, which now increases to 1,600 after this year's fund raisers.



# BLHS to be Featured as a KCTV5 Cool School January 6

**B**asehor-Linwood USD 458 is a KCTV5 and Wendy's COOL SCHOOL OF THE WEEK!

KCTV5 will highlight the BLHS YouthFriends, YouthFriends Corps CareCats, the Diversity Club and the Student Council groups that are partnering with the Basehor-Linwood students and staff to kick-off a "lead by example" challenge with all the greater Kansas City schools. We're asking students to pledge to be examples of good character! "IT'S JUST THE BOB-CAT WAY!"

KCTV5's Iris Herмосillo will be LIVE at Basehor-Linwood High School on Friday, January 6th starting promptly at 6 a.m. in the BLHS large gymnasium. We are

asking for you to wear your BOB-CAT green and gold, and be a part of the LIVE TV audience. Make a sign, dress up in your BOBCAT best and plan to be here early January 6!

Reminder: Parents, be sure if your child attends this event that you will be back by 7:30 a.m. to take your child to school, as we will not have transportation available to transport students from the high school to another attendance building.



**Presenters needed in these areas:**

- Architecture and Construction
- Arts, Audio-Video Technology & Communications
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
- Business Management & Administration
- Health Sciences
- Marketing
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security
- Finance
- Education and Training
- Human Services
- Manufacturing Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
- Transportation, Distribution and Logistics
- Information Technology
- Government and Public Administration

Contact Sue Ryan [sryan@usd458.org](mailto:sryan@usd458.org) or Lesa Taylor [ltaylor@usd458.org](mailto:ltaylor@usd458.org) at 913-724-2266 for more information



## Superintendent Joins Twitter to Increase Communication

**W**e constantly search for ways to improve communication with our parents and patrons. Last school year, the District added two informal means of communication - a District Facebook page and the Superintendent's Blog.

The Facebook page is updated almost daily with current events happening around the District or community and the Superintendent's Blog is posted

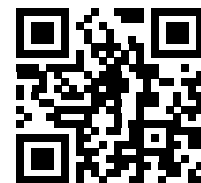
weekly and focuses on different topics across the District.

Superintendent David Howard has now joined the Twitter world, and you can follow him to see where he is and what he is doing, usually on a daily basis.

Mr. Howard will also be "tweeting" about snow days before he makes the SchoolReach call, so if you want to be one of the first to know, start following

him on Twitter (@dlhoward32)!

Check out Mr. Howard's most recent blog post by scanning the QR code below with your smart phone's QR reader:



# USD 458 Earns 33 Standards of Excellence

Assistant Superintendent Mike Boyd presented building principals with the 2011 Spring Kansas Assessments Standard of Excellence certificates at the December 12th Board of Education meeting. This year, our students performed at the highest level ever! Overall the District received 33 Standards of Excellence (see below for breakout by building).



Even though the District did not receive awards in all areas, the Basehor-Linwood School District still scored well above AYP (Average Yearly Progress) scores. The scores were also significantly above the State of Kansas Average in those areas tested (see right). (AYP is not reported for science and history/government.)

As you can see our students, teachers, staff and parents have all collaborated to help our students become very successful! Thank you for all your effort and hard work. We look forward to improving on last year's scores in the 2012 testing season that begins in March.

School	Reading	Required for AYP
Basehor Elementary	94.0%	87.8%
Glenwood Ridge Elementary	94.4%	87.8%
Linwood Elementary	86.3%	87.8%
BLMS	96.1%	87.8%
BLHS	93.0%	86.7%

School	Math	Required for AYP
Basehor Elementary	94.4%	86.7%
Glenwood Ridge Elementary	99.3%	86.7%
Linwood Elementary	90.4%	86.7%
BLMS	93.0%	86.7%
BLHS	97.6%	82.3%

BES/BIS	BLHS	BLMS	GRES	LES
3rd Grade Reading	Building-wide Reading	6th Grade Reading	3rd Grade Reading	3rd Grade Reading
4th Grade Reading	Building-wide Math	7th Grade Reading	4th Grade Reading	5th Grade Reading
5th Grade Reading		8th Grade Reading	5th Grade Reading	Building-wide Reading
Building-wide Reading		Building-wide Reading	Building-wide Reading	3rd Grade Math
3rd Grade Math		6th Grade Math	3rd Grade Math	5th Grade Math
4th Grade Math		7th Grade Math	4th Grade Math	Building-wide Math
5th Grade Math		8th Grade Math	5th Grade Math	
Building-wide Math		Building-wide Math	Building-wide Math	
Building-wide Science				

# SchoolReach

**A**s the outside temperatures begin to drop, the chance for inclement weather increases and talk of 'snow days' begins!



The Basehor-Linwood School District utilizes SchoolReach, a phone broadcast system, to share information with parents about a variety of situations including weather-related closings. Please make sure that you have a current phone number on file with your child's school to ensure you receive these calls.

Below you will find a few reminders about how the SchoolReach system works:

**Caller ID:** Your Caller ID will display the district number: 913.724.1396.

**Live answers:** Answer your phone as you normally would, say "hello" once, and wait for the message to begin.

**Message repeat:** At the end of the message, you will be prompted to "Press 1" to hear the message again.

## CONTACT Us

2008 N. 155th St.  
PO Box 282  
Basehor, KS 66007

p. 913.724.1396  
f. 913.724.2709

Si, usted necesita esta correspondencia traducida, por favor hace contacto con [arazak@usd458.org](mailto:arazak@usd458.org).