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THE QUARTERLY BARK

MORGAN COUNTY R-1
HOME OF THE STOVER BULLDOGS

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 1--NOVEMBER, 2023

BE THE 1 IN MCR-1--IT'S OUR ATTITUDE

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

BY MATT UNGER,
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS



Welcome to the Morgan County R-1 School District! The Bulldog Bark is a publication that is produced and distributed by the R-1 District so that we can better inform the residents about all the great things going on at Morgan County R-1. We hope you enjoy and if you want additional information, please let us know.

The 2023-24 school year is nearly at its midpoint. The theme of the school year is ASPIRE to Be The #1. As parents, caregivers, or residents of the Morgan County R-1 School District, we always want our students and children to 'ASPIRE' to be the best they can be! I am challenging all parents, caregivers, and community members to 'ASPIRE'

to be the best they can be. As a parent or caregiver, you can assist in learning by working with students on their schoolwork or encouraging them to participate in school or community activities. As a parent, caregiver, or community member, you can 'ASPIRE' to be a volunteer to help out in concession stands, be part of our PTO, booster club, project prom, or assist with one of our school or community organizations. Parents, Caregivers, and community members can influence, inspire, and be positive role models for students in so many ways! I know we all live busy, active lives, but please try to carve out some time, work together, and let's do our best to inspire each other to 'ASPIRE' to be better than the day, week, month, or years before!

On August 23, we welcomed the Class of 2036 (feeling old?) when 68 Kindergarten students had their first day of school. Over the past several years, I have written about our significant enrollment increases. Since 2014, we have increased our enrollment by 237 students, or nearly a 42% increase. This year, our September enrollment was 45 students, greater than we were in September 2022. This continued enrollment increase has resulted in the district needing to expand its facilities.



Building improvement and construction started in the summer of 2023, with Klassen Construction renovating every student bathroom in the district and starting excavation for the new bus barn and the elementary classrooms. Additionally, the district is trying to lower its facility operating cost by installing an automated thermostat system, solar panels, and windows and updating kitchen freezers and hot water heaters. The Board is closely monitoring enrollment growth and the continued school and community need for adequate Track, Baseball, and Softball facilities.

Annually, the Board of Education is tasked with setting the tax rate. Many factors are calculated and recalculated by the State Auditor when setting the tax rate. Our tax rate for the Fiscal Year 2023-24 was calculated at \$3.43 per \$100 assessed valuation. Here is how our tax rate compares to other Kaysinger Conference schools

Cole Camp: \$3.87
LaMonte: \$3.88
Otterville: \$4.16
Lincoln: \$4.03
Smithton: \$3.63

Northwest: \$4.15
Windsor: \$3.25
Tipton: \$4.01
Green Ridge: \$3.93

We are thankful for the support that citizens give public education. As former Missouri Governor Matt Blunt once said, 'Public Education is an investment in our future.' Thanks for your support!

Morgan County R-1 will be ASPIRING to be the #1 Attitude with many exciting changes and initiatives for the 2023-24 school year. We have had remarkable individual student success this fall and a historical fall sports season. As you read through this publication of Bulldog Bark, you will learn about some of our new programs, revamped programs, and outstanding academic and extracurricular programs. Since we all live in the 'SHOW ME' State, we want to show you that MCR #1 ASPIRES to great things!



Partnering with Families to Support Elementary Students

*By: Jessica Smith
Elementary Principal*



New! Stover Elementary hosted multiple Partners in Education Days this year, also called P.I.E. days!

What are P.I.E. days? P.I.E. days are opportunities for our teachers, students, and families to learn more about how everyone can work together to support each elementary student's academic growth and success. Each grade level created a Partners in Education day specific to their grade level's curriculum and learning. Each grade level invited a parent, guardian, or special grown-up to attend the event and partner with their child to learn fun ways to support them at home academically. Many went home with ready-made activities they could use immediately with their child. Activities covered multiple areas, such as sight word practice, math facts, and study skills. Visitors, students, and teachers enjoyed a P.I.E. day treat at the end of each event.

When were P.I.E. days? It depended on the grade level, but all P.I.E. day events happened in October and November. Most of the events lasted about one hour.

We look forward to partnering with our families as we support each student through their academic growth and achievements this year!



P.I.E. DAY FUN



TeacherEase and ParentSquare

By Dr. Molly Roe

Director of Curriculum and Instruction



The Morgan County R-1 school transitioned to **TeacherEase** for the new student information system this school year. The school district had to transition to a new student information system because Tyler Sis is no longer supporting their system. TeacherEase will allow families to access their child's grades, assignments, etc., just like Tyler Sis did in their new platform. The difference is you must have an email address to access TeacherEase. If you have not updated the offices with a recent email address, please let the elementary or high school office know your current one. Families can also download the TeacherEase app to access the information quickly.



The district is still working with the Common Goal/Teacher Ease implementation team to ensure all the information has been correctly transitioned into this new system. It has taken some time for **ParentSquare** and TeacherEase to work together since the change, but once we could work out the few issues we had with the two systems. We have our applications for communications with our families this school year. If you are not receiving messages from either of these systems, please let us know so we can work together and figure out where the communication misstep is now.

"IT'S A SNOW-DAY" CONCERTS

DECEMBER 4—Preschool through Second Grade

DECEMBER 5—Third through Fifth Grade

DECEMBER 7—High School

6:00 IN THE HIGH SCHOOL GYM

BAKE SALE EACH NIGHT!



On the Job Training Cookbook

The On the Job Training (OJT) classes have been working hard to create our very first cookbook. The classes wrote letters to past employees requesting their favorite recipes and received many great ones. You will find recipes from current employees, students, families, and past employees in this cookbook.

It was a lot of work, but the students put their best effort into creating something to be proud of. They hope to have them delivered around Thanksgiving and will sell them for \$10.

They will be set up at home basketball games, or you can email Tami.Shewmaker@mcr1.us to purchase, or they will be available at all three offices at school.

The Cookbooks will make great Christmas gifts with over 150 recipes covering salads, appetizers, meats, vegetables, and desserts. The books will be spiral-bound so that will lay flat.

JOIN US FOR OUR

**VETERANS
RECOGNITION**

**AT OUR HOME BASKETBALL GAME
AGAINST PILOT GROVE**

December 1, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

We will be honoring our Veterans immediately following the Varsity Girls Game.

We will have a special National Anthem presentation before the Varsity Girls Game.

Reception starts at 4:30 in the library.

Veterans and their families will be admitted free.

Sponsored by the Athletic Department





What a Fall Sports Season!!

*By Tony Pace
Athletic Director*

The Bulldog fall sports season saw unprecedented success and set the school year off in a way that will be hard to top.

Let's start with one of our newest programs. The High School **Girls' golf team** won several tournaments but ended the season with impressive accomplishments. The team won the Kaysinger Conference Championship the Stover Invitational, and captured the first fall District Championship for the program all in the same week. Yes, you read that correctly: the first fall district championship. The girls, Mia Rowland, Brooklyn Black, Ava Hodges, Maddie Finkenbine, and Ella Hodges, started their second season strong and finished with the same momentum they started. After winning the district title, the team advanced to the state meet and finished 7th place. Individual finishers were Mia Rowland #20, Ava Hodges #51, Brooklyn Black #58, and Maddie Finkenbine #80. What a great year on the links, and with no seniors, we will look forward to more success in the future.



Now for **Volleyball**. Another great season was put in the books by Coach Candace Bauer and the Lady Bulldog Volleyball team. The Lady Bulldog Volleyball team began the season by losing their first set but did not lose another set for six weeks. In that first game, they started by winning their first 24 games and only losing two sets in that

span. They won the regular season conference championship with an undefeated 10-0 record. They won the inaugural HyVee tournament without dropping a set and went into districts with only two losses. Entering districts with a record of 31-2, they were on a roll. The Ladies won their 3rd straight district title and 4th title in 5 years. They went on to win the sectional game for the 2nd consecutive year and advanced to the quarterfinal game. Although they fell short in this game, they finished with a spectacular 34-3 record and many trophies for their effort. What a spectacular season the ladies had, and we look forward to another great season coming up.



Cross Country is our next HS sport to discuss. This was another excellent season for the CC team. They placed well at several meets, but one of the highlights was the Kaysinger meet hosted in Stover. Both teams had another great showing and produced several all-conference finishes but only one champion. Gabby Sidebottom won the Conference Championship as a freshman, and we look forward to more from her. As the season progressed, the runners improved finally; at Districts, we had three runners advance. Gabbi Sidebottom advanced to the State meet on the girls' side. Kolten Carter and Gavin Welpman have advanced on the boys' side. Gabbi and Gavin ran well enough at the state meet to find a place on the All-State team. Both runners will be back for more success next year and will help lead our CC team for a few years.



Now on to the Historic season of **Boys' Soccer**. This year's boys' soccer team began the season with high expectations. They played well throughout the early season and continued to fulfill some high expectations. They placed 2nd in the Kaysinger Tournament and 3rd in the Stover Classic. They had a few rough spots before heading into Districts, but they were in great shape once District Week hit. They won the first round of the Soccer District over Cole Camp and advanced to the District Championship game. As the boys prepared to close the game with a win, Green Ridge made a goal with under 30 seconds remaining. Our Bulldogs went into overtime with a focused resolve. They stood firm and won the game on a Cody Mosher overtime goal. This marked the first District Title for Boys soccer in School history and allowed the boys to advance to the Quarterfinals in soccer for the first time. Although they fell short in that game, losing in OT, a great sense of team marked the Bulldogs' historic run and an individual accomplishment that will not be surpassed for some time. Cody Mosher set the single-season goal record at 42.



This act will be a tough one to follow. The 2023 Fall Bulldogs and Lady Bulldogs won 3 district titles and have set us up for a great and memorable year of athletics.



Dolly Parton's Imagination Library



The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is excited to announce the statewide expansion of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library — it is now available for ALL Missouri children under 5 years old! There's no deadline to register. Dolly Parton shared a special message for Missourians, celebrating this statewide launch and encouraging families to register. Register for the program here: <https://imaginationlibrary.com/check-availability/>

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children from birth to age 5, through funding shared by Dolly Parton and the State of Missouri. Every child birth to age 5 in Missouri is eligible to participate – sign your child up today!

We encourage all families with children under five to sign up to receive an age-appropriate book each month in the mail for free. Children are made readers on the laps of their parents, and we are excited that this program exists for our future Bulldogs.

THANK YOU!!!!



We want to thank the Citizens Farmers Bank for purchasing tickets for our students to attend the Sectionals and Quarterfinals games for soccer and volleyball games. Your generosity enabled our students to attend these games and cheer our teams in our epic fall season.

A special thanks also to our Stover Booster Club for purchasing tickets for our students to attend the District finals. Your support meant a lot to our students.

HOMECOMING 2024



Come home for Homecoming 2024 to “Let the Games Begin” on Friday, January 19, starting at 5:00. The Bulldogs will take on the Green Ridge Tigers. It will be a busy night with the following taking place:

- Chili Supper
- Hall of Fame Induction
- Crowning of the Homecoming Royalty
- Recognition Alumni and the Classes 1944, 1954, 1964, 1974, 1984, 1994, 2004, and 2014



CLASS OF 2023 HALL OF FAME

On January 19, we will induct two members into the Stover High School Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame will be the same night as Homecoming, and we will play Green Ridge. The Hall of Fame committee voted to induct Connie Carver Burke and Sharla Goetze Propst into the Hall of Fame. Both of these ladies were exceptional athletes while in school.



Connie Carver Burke is a 1967 graduate of Stover High School. While in high school, Connie played volleyball and softball, ran track, and cheered. She was active in the pep squad, Tattler Staff, majorette, FHA, Student Council, Glee Club, and the senior play.

After high school, Connie held many jobs, including owning a Cole Camp flower shop and running the Burke Auction Service. She was also a paraprofessional and a bus driver for MCR-1 for 22 years.

She married Roger Burke and has one son, Heath Harms (Shelly), and three grandsons, Haiden, Hudson, and Huston.



Sharla Goetze Propst is a 1990 graduate of Stover High School. After graduation, Sharla attended Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Management and a minor in Business in 1994.

She received a full-ride scholarship to play volleyball. She received All MIAA conference awards in 1991, 1992, and 1993 and All-Tournament Team from Emporia State University in 1993. She holds the following records at SBU: top ten in digs and kills per set, top five in attack percentage and kills per set, top four in blocks per set, top two for points, block assists, and block solos, and she currently still holds the record for total blocks.

She is married to Tom Propst, and they have two children, Camryn and Dawson.

ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

DECEMBER

- 1—Senior Reality Check Day and Mock Interviews for Seniors
- 1—Basketball with Pilot Grove—JVG/JVB/VG/VB—5:00—Veterans Recognition between Varsity girls and Varsity boys games
- 2—JH Wrestling at Windsor at 9:00
- 2—High School Boys Wrestling at Lone Jack at 9:00
- 2—Stover Christmas Parade at 5:00
- 4—No B.E.A.T.
- 4—JH Wrestling at Butler Scramble at 5:00
- 4—PK-2 Christmas Concert at 6:00
- 5—No B.E.A.T.
- 5—Jostens delivers rings
- 5—3-6 Christmas Concert at 6:00
- 5—Girls Basketball with Russellville—JVG/VG at 6:00
- 7—Grades 6-12 Christmas Concert at 6:00
- 8—JH Wrestling at Lexington Tournament at 5:00
- 8—Basketball at Iberia—JVB/VG/VB at 5:00
- 9—High School Boys Wrestling at Versailles Tournament at 9:00
- 9—JV Basketball Saturday at 8:00
- 11—HS Wrestling at Knob Noster at 5:00
- 11—Basketball at Lincoln—JVB/VG/VB at 5:00
- 12-16—JH Basketball Tournament at Stover
- 13—FFA Meeting at 6:00
- 14—Government EOC
- 14—World War I field Trip to WW1 Museum
- 14—FCCLA Christmas Party at 3:30
- 14—Basketball at Windsor JV/VG/VB at 5:00
- 15-16—Battle on the Katy Trail—HS Wrestling—Matthewson Cen
- 15—FFA Labor Auction and Chili Supper at 6:00
- 16—Basketball with Santa Fe at SFCC—girls play at 1:30 and boys at 2:30
- 18—JH Basketball with Cole Camp at 5:30
- 20—End of the Quarter
- 20—Early Out at 12:36 for Christmas Break
- 21—Basketball (VG/VB) with Warsaw at HyVee Center in Kansas City at 12:00
- 22—Basketball (VG/VB) with New Bloomfield at HyVee Center at 12:00
- 30—Stover Invitational Tournament—first round will be played
- 31—Early Yearbook Sales End

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