



CHEYLIN KINDERGARTENERS watch in fascination as fire fighters Craig White and Dennis Wright demonstrate the equipment used during fires and emergencies. Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Cheylin students have fun at station

By Linda Schneider
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Every year Cheylin kindergarten teacher, Sharon Hendricks, takes her class to see the Bird City fire trucks.

Taking the students on this annual trip gives them a chance to see the fire and emergency trucks up close.

This year, the tour not only allowed the students an up-close view of the vehicles, but demonstrations were given of the various life-saving equipment that personnel use during emergency calls and some of the safety garments they wear.

Firefighters Craig White and Dennis Wright guided the students to the many trucks and vehicles that the fire department uses for fighting fires and rescuing people.

The children had many questions concerning the different equipment. The kids got to see and hear a device firefighters use to signal their location during an emergency.

During the tour, Firefighter White asked, "Who would like to grow up to be a firefighter?"

"I would!" answered students Luis Reynoso and Jayden Boyson.

Luis and Jayden did not lag behind when the tour included getting inside of an ambulance. As they both headed to the vehicle and climbed in, Jayden said, "Sweet!"

When the group went to see the water truck that is when the excitement began. Up until then, Guinevere Burr, Kaylynn Hendricks, Kim Velazquez, Pearl Yanez and Emilia Veleta, had lingered back throughout the tour. However, when they saw the water truck and that it had some great places to climb, they could not resist.

At one point, Firefighter White let the students hear the



WITH A LITTLE HELP from fire fighter Craig White, Jayden Boyson gets a handle on a powerful water hose. Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

sirens and explained what each siren meant in an emergency.

But, when the students were asked if they wanted to see the water shoot out of the nozzle on the front of the truck, they

jumped up and down. Everyone got a chance to operate the nozzle and shoot the water.

Linda Schneider, Bird City reporter, while taking pictures, did not get out of the way of the

shooting water in time and got wet.

It was an exciting day for the students and some talked of becoming a firefighter when they grew up.

Students ask members to combine dance, cheer teams

By Linda Schneider
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This month's meeting on March 10, was an early night for the board members. Most of the agenda consisted of approval of items that would be in place for the 2008-2009 school year.

There had been a special board meeting March 3. At that time, the board accepted the resignations of board members Rod Young and Jan Busse, effective immediately. In addition, Superintendent David Zumbalhen handed in his resignation but, he will finish out the school year before it takes effect.

At the same meeting, the board approved the hiring of Jane Young as district clerk to replace Roseanna Underwood. Mrs. Young will start May 1.

After approval of last month's minutes and the present agenda, Cheylin students, Naomi Reeh and Samantha Robertson, asked the board to approve of the combining of the cheerleader squad and the dance team.

They bought up the point that by combining the two teams, making is a larger group; it would help with school pride and participation in games and pep rallies.

"How would it benefit the school?" asked Superintendent Zumbalhen.

Some of the benefits Naomi mentioned would be, one uniform, one practice instead of two a week, needing only one coach, and keep the teams vibrant.

"How would you be able to practice in only half the time?" asked Superintendent Zumbalhen.

At this time, Amy Hendricks, dance team sponsor, who was present for another school issue, brought up the fact that the dance team was now doing tryouts and she did not have any knowledge of the request that Naomi and Samantha were seeking until just moments before arriving for the meeting.

Mrs. Hendricks went on to say that, the dance team was practicing until 9 p.m., and to continue with cheerleading would put the time well past 10 p.m.

She continued by saying that a few of the girls from the dance team would not tryout if the two squads were combined, and Mrs. Hendricks said that she would not be able to sponsor the combined squads, it would be too much for her to have to go to all the games and the late practices.

Roseanna Underwood, district clerk, mentioned that when she attended Cheylin there was only one squad, "Spirit Squad." However, she did not know why they had been combined or why they were separated.

When uniforms were mentioned, Naomi said that the school still had boxes of old uniforms in good condition.

The main concern Naomi and Samantha had was that there would be no cheerleading sponsor for next year and it could be the end of

cheerleading for Cheylin because no one is trying out.

Speaking for Tammi Carmichael and herself, Mrs. Hendricks said they would not be sponsoring cheerleading next year.

George Louderbaugh, board member, spoke to Naomi and Samantha about recruiting a sponsor and students who may be interested in a cheerleading squad. No action was taken.

Action items

Motion carried to commend Lincoln Pochop and Tia Sager selection for Western Kansas Liberty League All-League Basketball First Team.

The board approved Janice Churchwell as an elementary teacher.

The 2008-09 school calendar was accepted. School will start Aug. 18 and close May 21. There would be seven extra Fridays of school, but a two-week holiday break in December.

Sports items

The board accept a variety of sports training rules for golf and track as well as the cheer squad training and constitution, and dance team constitution, both for the 2008-09 school year.

Tammi Carmichael and Amy Hendricks were approved as dance team sponsors for 2008-09.

Bobbie Walden's resignation as junior high and high school cheerleader sponsor was accepted. She will finish out the school year and sponsor the cheerleading tryouts.

Information items

Superintendent Zumbalhen reported on the tentative buy-in-services for the 2008-09 school year. These services are provided by Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center. These are for continuing services that are in place now.

Motion carried to open bids on two school vehicles, the 1988 school bus and the 1998 #9 suburban. A third vehicle, the handicap van, will be put out to pasture.

Two water heaters are being replaced.

Construction on the McDonald cafeteria could start in early April.

Meetings

Tuesday, March 25, has been set to appoint new board members. If interested in becoming a member, submit a letter to Roseanna Underwood at the school by Friday, March 21.

On March 17, McPherson and Jacobson, a recruitment company, will be meeting with the board members concerning the advertising for the school superintendent position. They will do the majority of the work in analyzing and weeding out potential candidates for submission to the board members.

The meeting adjourned for executive session to discuss negotiations.

The next meeting is April 14.

Disaster programs provide benefits to farmers and ranchers

Angie Berens, executive director for the Cheyenne County Farm Service Agency reminds eligible ranchers and other livestock producers that they can apply to receive benefits under the Livestock Compensation Program (LCP) and Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

The ad hoc disaster programs

provide benefits to farmers and ranchers who suffered losses caused by natural disasters in recent years.

"Between 2005 and early 2007, agricultural producers across the country experienced financial difficulties as the result of devastating drought, blizzards, tornadoes and other natural disasters," Mrs. Berens said. "I

am pleased to announce that the agency is delivering these benefits to America's farmers and ranchers at a time when many need it the most."

Livestock Compensation provides benefits to livestock producers for feed losses occurring between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, due to a natural disaster - including producers who suffered

losses result from drought or the blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007.

Livestock Indemnity compensates livestock producers for livestock deaths between Jan. 1, 2005, and Dec. 31, 2007, that resulted from natural disasters, including losses due to blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007.

Mrs. Berens emphasized, "Producers incurring loss in more than one of the 2005, 2006 or 2007 qualifying years may be paid in only one year for which they want to apply for benefits."

In an effort to expedite the application process and provide efficient, quality customer service, Mrs. Berens recommends that producers call

the county office to schedule an appointment for disaster program assistance.

For detailed application and eligibility information, please contact the Cheyenne County office at (785) 332-2183. Interested producers can also access fact sheets on the agency's Web site www.fsa.usda.gov; click on Disaster Assistance Programs.

Easter Egg Hunt
Coming
March 22

