

YOUR EDUCATION RESOURCE

NEWS FROM THE LAWRENCE SCHOOLS FOUNDATION & LAWRENCE EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT PARTNERS

June 2008— October 2008

TOGETHER WE BUILD
RELATIONSHIPS AND RESOURCES

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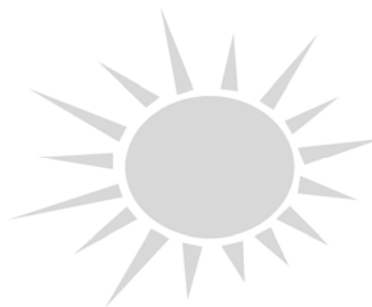
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PICTURED AT THE 2008 BREAKFAST (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): LHS BAND PLAYS THE NATIONAL ANTHEM; BRIAN MCCLENDON SPEAKS TO A MATH CLASS AT LHS; RANDY WESEMAN AND BRIAN; EAST HEIGHTS STUDENTS PERFORM. PHOTOS BY DON STEVANOVA



2008 Community Education Breakfast

The 7th Annual Community Education Breakfast, co-hosted by the Lawrence Schools Foundation and the Lawrence Education Achievement Partners, on Friday, September 5, garnered a record-breaking number of sponsors (59 businesses) and contributions totaling more than \$49,000. Lawrence High School 1982 graduate Brian McClendon, shared a history of computers intertwined with his own journey from Hillcrest to West Junior High, from Lawrence High to KU, and his career path leading to his position as engineering director for Google Inc., and inventing Google Earth. McClendon shared that Lawrence Public Schools' mathematics, media/film, and computer science courses helped him develop an interest in wanting to build



computers: first, hardware, and then software that would later be used in the creation of animated graphics for blockbuster movies like Terminator 2, Jurassic Park and The Abyss. In addition to being free for public use worldwide, McClendon's Google Earth was first widely used by CNN to illustrate world news reports. The Google executive recalled some of his

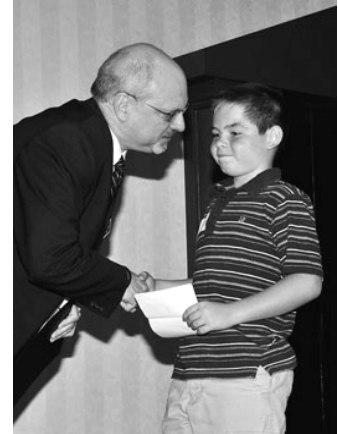
favorite Lawrence teachers: Marian and Ray Wilbur, Sally Hersh and Art Sloan among them, and praised the quality of technology and learning opportunities available to students in Lawrence Public Schools. Free State and Lawrence High marching bands and East Heights Early Childhood Family Center preschoolers, also performed before a record crowd of 485 attendees. Major sponsors for the event were Intrust Bank, Stevens and Brand, Perceptive Software, and Cigna HealthCare. After presenting, Brian visited math, computer, and engineering classes at Lawrence High School and spoke to students about working at Google and the importance of a good education. The Lawrence Schools Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Student Service Highlighted

Before community members heard about the career of 1982 LHS graduate and Google executive Brian McClendon on Friday, September 5th, they heard about LPS student involvement in service-learning projects. The Lawrence Schools Foundation and Lawrence Education Achievement Partners co-sponsored the 7th annual Community Education Breakfast. Superintendent

Randy Weseman invited five student representatives, recommended by their teachers or principals, to speak at the event at the Holiday Home. Hunter Taylor, Sunflower Elementary, Marcelino Cortez, Pinckney Elementary, Decorey Pittman, South Junior High, Kelly O'Toole, Free State High, and Angelena Ross, Lawrence High, shared comments about their personal student vol-

unteerism and community service, including showcasing an annual third-grade project at Sunflower benefiting the Humane Society and Free State's Great Green Help, which sends juniors into the community to assist others. Superintendent Weseman has highlighted honor students including students with academic and fine arts achievements, during previous Community Education Breakfast events.



SUPERINTENDENT RANDY WESEMAN CONGRATULATES SUNFLOWER ELEMENTARY STUDENT, HUNTER TAYLOR.

*"...if you wish to make an **IMPACT** for an eternity, educate a child."*

-author unknown

Think about the impact you can make! More than \$756,000 in private contributions helped support our educators and students in 2007! What would our schools look like without our donor support?



"PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING BY THE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ALWAYS MEET THE NEEDS OF EVERY STUDENT..."

Funds for Excellence

The Lawrence Schools Foundation has established special grant funds to provide enrichment support to programs throughout the Lawrence Public Schools and in defined areas of use. The grant program is designed to assist schools with needs that are not otherwise being funded with state or federal money and in areas of interest that may be meaningful to donors. Rewarding gifts, of any size, can be made to the following funds: Academics

Fund, Arts Fund, Athletics Fund, Technology Fund, Wellness Fund and Greatest Needs Fund. Public education funding by the state and/or federal government does not always meet the needs of every student or globally. The Foundation believes that every student should have the opportunity to explore their talents and discover their strengths to prepare them for their fu-

tures. The Lawrence Schools Foundation wants to match your gift with your passion. What is the price tag for repairing band instruments, implementing intramural "athletics" competitions, more physical exercise activities in every school? We can tell you that every dollar counts. In order to meet ongoing needs, these funds need to be endowed at a minimum of \$10,000 each to ensure that at least \$5,000 can be made available every year to help bridge gaps in funding.

LEAP Has Impact

A strong educational system is the foundation of a prosperous community. Recognizing this, the Lawrence Public Schools and the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce collaborated to form the Lawrence Business/Education Partnership in 1993. After 10 successful years, the partnership changed its name to Lawrence Education Achievement Partners (LEAP) in order to recognize the wide

range of organizations involved and our shared commitment to supporting student achievement. LEAP establishes and facilitates mutually beneficial partnerships between community businesses/organizations and schools to enrich learning by sharing knowledge, time, and resources. The LEAP staff strive to ensure that school needs are being met by the more than 110 (and growing) local businesses and organizations that

are currently partners. From banks to local restaurants, civic groups to non-profit organizations, international companies to small businesses, the Lawrence Community, through LEAP, seeks to improve the academic and personal growth of local students from early childhood through high school.

To learn more, please visit www.leapforlawrence.org.



THE LAWRENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PROVIDED WATER AND THE COMMUNITY MERCANTILE PROVIDED APPLES FOR THE CJHS ANNUAL FUN RUN.

Help us save paper!
If you would like to have this newsletter sent to you electronically, please send an email to leap@usd497.org

Welcome new LEAP partners!

ATSI
Prairie Park school

Capitol City Bank
Cordley school

Personalized Family Dental Care
Kennedy School

Royal Crest Lanes
District wide

ARE YOU ONE OF OUR **110** COMMUNITY LEAP PARTNERS?

DO YOU KNOW WHO IS?

GO TO: WWW.LEAPFORLAWRENCE.ORG TO FIND OUT!



SUPERINTENDENT, RANDY WESEMAN (L), PERFORMING WITH LAWRENCE HIGH TEACHER, JEANNE AVERILL(R), AT THE 2008 FOUNDATION FOLLIES.



School Scoops!

The superintendent and since 2000, deputy superintendent, and chief operations officer in the Lawrence Public Schools all plan to retire, effective June 30, 2009. Together the three senior administrators have served Kansas unified school districts for more than 97 years, 80 here in Lawrence. Superintendent Randy Weseman has served as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, curriculum director, assistant super-

intendent and since 2000, superintendent. Dr. Bruce Passman, Deputy Superintendent, began his educational career as a special education teacher and continued in the special education field until being named deputy superintendent in 2005. Mary Rodriguez, Chief Operations Officer since 2007, was previously the district's human resources director and, prior to that, served as an assistant principal and a business

teacher at Lawrence High School. Weseman said that with a high percentage of Lawrence Public Schools' staff at retirement age, the school district will continue to experience numbers of retirements like it has in recent years. The district is the seventh largest in Kansas and the second largest employer in Lawrence, with approximately 1,750 teachers and educational support staff.

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Q&A with a Donor

Kathy Davis has been on the Lawrence Schools Foundation's Board of Trustees for 8 years. She serves on multiple board committees and has been **impacting** Lawrence youth for over 26 Years.

Q: Why did you become involved with the Lawrence Schools Foundation?

A: I thoroughly enjoyed my 18 years at Hillcrest School teaching second grade. After retiring I looked around at the many opportunities for retirees in Lawrence and quickly realized where I wanted to spend my time and energies.

Q: Why do you give to the Lawrence Schools Foundation?

A: Serving on the Foundation board has given me the opportunity to continue supporting public school education in Lawrence; financially and with my time.

Q: What do you like doing most for the Foundation?

A: Every spring as I read teacher grant applications, Lawrence Educator of the Year nominations and high school scholarship applications I know that these are important projects worth supporting.

Q: What do you hope to see in the future of the Lawrence Schools Foundation?

A: My goal would be to see us grow our funds for teacher grants and awards. Rewarding teachers for outstanding work, supporting new and innovative projects or providing opportunities to attend an exciting workshop all foster better education and outcomes for our students. Another big positive of being on this board is the membership. They are purposeful, hardworking, generous with their time and money and genuinely interested in public school education in Lawrence.



**KATHY DAVIS ANNOUNCING THE
 2007 EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR AT
 THE FOUNDATION FOLLIES.**