

# Cat Chat

Cashion High School

April 2010

## Words for Wildcats

By: Mrs. Oard

Let's continue the conversation regarding student success at school and discuss the educator's responsibilities to the classroom. While many aspects of teaching have changed over the years with obligations increasing and social demands growing, there are responsibilities that are core to the profession.

1. Teachers must be experts in their content area and that means continuing their own education.
2. Teachers must be experts in communicating their content to the students. We must be able to translate to the students the skills and knowledge we passionately want students to possess.
3. Teachers must move beyond the methods of instruction they are familiar with and explore new ways to teach students. This includes being current on skills students will need to know for their future.
4. Teachers must model collaboration and give students the opportunity to collaborate in the classroom.
5. Teachers must be a role model in everything they do. It is probably the most difficult but most important part of our job with students.
6. Teachers should communicate with the student and the family. There are more ways than ever to contact a parent. Don't give up until you find one that works.
7. Lessons must be applicable to present and future learning. Educators should take the time to share with students why they need each skill.
8. Educators must be flexible and adaptable. Every student is different, every day is

different, and every class is different.

9. Find something to appreciate about each student and colleague. Teachers receive greater enjoyment from their profession when they look forward to each day.
10. Teachers should continually reflect on what they do in the classroom. We are our own best critics and reflection can improve all aspects of what we do for students.

It's easy to place blame, pass the buck, etc. for failures other variables bring to school. However, we simply cannot allow those issues to define what we do or the efforts we bring into the classroom. We are a part of a social bargain and should be held accountable for how we influence student achievement.

## FCCLA Convention Approaches

The month of April is a busy time for FCCLA! Our Cashion Chapter is currently making plans to purchase t-shirts to wear to Frontier City after FCCLA State Convention which is April 15. The cost is \$16 for the t-shirt. The only money needed for State Convention is money to eat on for the day. We will leave the school at 7:30 a.m. and return at 11:00 p.m.

Senior gifts and chapter certificates are being bought and prepared for our end of the year presentation at the awards assembly. Thirty students have signed up to go to State Convention at the Cox Center in downtown Oklahoma City. Everyone is looking forward to it.

**Class Olympics T-shirts**

**Order by April 7**

**\$12.00**

**See Mrs. Chandler**

# Secondary News

By: Mr. Vandruff  
H.S. Principal

Spring is here and things are getting busier than ever. Track, baseball and softball have started and are off to a great start. Our baseball players will get to play beneath the lights of Bricktown on April 6 at 7:00 p.m. They will play Amber/Pocasset and this game should be an exciting event for our student-athletes and our patrons.

Prom is Saturday, April 2 from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Guthrie Depot. I know our students are looking forward to the big dance, and I don't mean the NCAA tournament. Our junior class has been working hard by selling ice cream, working the concession stand at basketball games. They have put a lot of time and effort into raising funds to pay for Prom.

State tests are just around the corner. These are very important tests that for some classes must be passed to graduate. These tests also help our teachers improve instruction. This year we have been working hard at breaking down our student testing data. Please encourage your student to give his best effort on these tests. If your student is in high school, these test scores are placed on their transcripts. Colleges are able to see these scores, so it does help when your student gives great effort. Here are a few strategies for students to consider before taking their tests.

- Mark out obviously wrong answers.
- On usage questions, read your answer back into the sentence.
- On math questions, if necessary, work backward from the answers.
- On reading questions, quickly pre-read the question before reading the passage. As you read the passage, mark areas pertaining to the questions. Do not spend too much time on any one question.
- Consider all the choices.
- Follow the directions: for example, on the writing portions, stay on the topic.
- Check your work (if time allows).
- Watch for words like "not" and "least."
- NEVER leave blanks. In the last 30 seconds fill in one of the middle-columns answers.
- Do easiest questions first BUT be careful about

marking the answer grid.

- On the writing portions, write an outline, get to the point, use transition, STAY ON TOPIC, don't use "you," write clearly, proofread and correct errors, have no less than two body paragraphs. (PLUS the introduction and conclusion), and have a clear thesis statement.
- Note the number of items and figure out how much time you have to answer each one.
- Answer the easy items first to get the maximum number of points.
- Change your answer only if you have reason to do so; research indicates that in three out of four times your first choice was probably correct.
- Return to questions you couldn't answer initially and try them again.
- Don't waste time reviewing answers which you are confident are correct.
- Learn how to quickly eliminate options that are highly unlikely. Many questions have only two believable options accompanied by "throwaway" options for filler.
- Be alert to the fact that information relevant to one question is sometimes given away in another test item.
- On items that have "all of the above" as an option, if you know that just two of the options are correct, you should choose "all of the above".
- Options that represent broad, sweeping generalizations tend to be incorrect. You should be alert for words such as "always," "never," "necessarily," "only," "must," "completely," "totally," and so forth that create these improbable assertions.
- In contrast, options that represent carefully qualified statements tend to be correct. Words such as "often," "sometimes," "perhaps," "may," and "generally" tend to show up in these well-qualified statements.
- If the question is long and complex, underline the subject and verb to help you.
- Read the question and answer it in your mind, then look for the matching answer.
- Read all the alternatives, saying "probable" or "not probable" before making a decision.
- Ask yourself if you are dealing with a fact or the understanding of some fact.
- If a question is in the negative; for example,

“One of the following is not a cause,” look for three true answers and the one remaining false answer will be the correct one to mark.

- Note appropriate grammatical structure from the question to the answer choices. (The subject and verb should be grammatically correct.)
- Length- The correct choice is often the longest. If you have noticed that most of the correct answers have been the shortest, then when you aren’t sure, select the shortest. If, on the other hand, most of the correct answers have been the longest, select the longest answer when you are unsure. No particular trend for either? Try the longest.
- Most General Alternatives/Answers- The correct choice is often the most general, since the most general choice includes the most information. You will often find a list of items that have some very technical and specific choices and one choice is more general. Chances are, the most general choice is the correct one.
- Middle Value- The correct choice is usually of middle value. If the choices range in value- old to new, early to late, big to small- and you are not sure which one is correct, eliminate the extremes and pick from the middle values or values. Example: The mature human being has how many teeth? A) 15 B) 32 C) 54 D) 7 Eliminate the two extreme values, C and D. Since 54 and 7 are extremes, they are probably incorrect. This leaves you with two choices from which to select your answer.
- In questions that have complex alternatives involving more than one right answer, mark each item as true or false. When you finish all the choices, you will have the answer.
- Check the answer sheet with the question sheet to make sure the numbering corresponds.

**Reminders:** Get enough sleep the night before and eat breakfast. (Critical)

“You miss 100 percent of the shots you never take.”

“It is our attitude at the beginning of a difficult undertaking which, more than anything else, will determine its successful outcome.” William James

Kyle Vandruff

## **Where the WILD Things Are!**

Cashion Elementary School

Principal Lisa Crosslin

It’s hard to believe that we are well into our last quarter of the school year already. The signs of spring – green grass, red tulips, and sunny days – remind us that the school year is winding down. However, we have plenty of activities left before the wild days of summer vacation are upon us.

We have OCCT testing April 11<sup>th</sup> – April 14<sup>th</sup> for all students in grades 3 through 6. The OCCT tests are state achievements tests that measure student mastery of Oklahoma’s Priority Academic Student Standards (PASS). To prepare for testing, please make sure your children get plenty of rest, eat a good breakfast and come to school ready to do their best.

In addition to academic testing, we have lots of fun end-of-school activities planned. The sixth graders have challenged the staff to their annual students versus staff volleyball game on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:30. The student body can attend for \$1 admission. On April 28<sup>th</sup>, sixth graders will have their Jump-A-Thon, and on April 29<sup>th</sup> all students are invited to attend Muffins with Moms with their moms or grandmothers. Finally, we have our Flip-Flop/Hat Day fundraiser on April 29<sup>th</sup> as well, and all students can pay \$1 to wear hats or flip-flops that day. That same week, students in grades 1-6 will be participating in the Dover Fine Arts Festival in poetry, piano and chorus. The next edition of Cat Chat will have more information on end-of-school activities, including track and field day scheduled for the last week of school.

***It’s not too late for Pre-K enrollment....*** If you know families with pre-school age students who were unable to attend our Rookie Roundup preschool enrollment, please have them contact us at the elementary school office, 433-2614. We had fewer pre-enrollments on March 30<sup>th</sup> than expected and need to talk with any parents of preschoolers we might have missed. Our plans to move to all-day Pre-K and all-day Kindergarten are dependent upon adequate enrollment, so please contact the office if you know of students who could benefit from our 4-year old preschool program. In order to pre-enroll, we ***must*** have current shot records, a state-issued birth certificate and proof of residency (water or electric bill).

## Cashion BPA members place at state competition

Six Cashion High School BPA members competed on March 8 at the Business Professionals of America Spring Leadership Conference held at OSU Okmulgee. These members earned the right to compete at the state competition by placing in the top twenty from preliminary online testing. Those competing included Randi Lamle, Evan Bird, Caleb Kimberling, and Jay Nail in Fundamental Spreadsheet Analysis; Sarah Arms in Fundamental Word Processing; and Nicolas Rollins in Database Applications.

Four of the six placed in the top ten at the state competition in their respective events, Jay Nail placing 3<sup>rd</sup>, Evan Bird 5<sup>th</sup>, Caleb Kimberling 7<sup>th</sup>, and Nicolas Rollins 7<sup>th</sup>. All of them participated in the Business Math and Analysis Online Exam with Evan Bird placing 5<sup>th</sup>.

The conference included students from technology centers and comprehensive high schools throughout the state competing in 52 events.

## Yearbooks offered through the mail and online

### *An Easy Method to Purchase Yearbooks*

Cashion Public Schools is offering a great way to purchase the best book-of-the-year, the 2011 Cashion yearbook directly through the mail or online. You can also purchase a year book from Mrs. Gruntmeir at the high school. Cost is \$35 if purchase on or before May 20. After May 20, the price will go up to \$40 and there will be no guarantee there will be extras.

In a partnership with Jostens, our yearbook printer, Cashion School is offering a program for purchasing yearbooks from the home. This simple method will eliminate the need for students to bring money to the school and allow parents the opportunity to discuss purchase decisions with students at home. Yearbook purchases will be made through the mail, Internet, or by simply calling a toll-free service hotline, 1-866-282-1516. Additionally, a special feature of this program allows parents the option of an installment payment plan.

Starting in February, students began receiving complete details on the 2011 yearbook, available options and ordering instructions. Watch your mailbox for details.

## BPA members tour Chesapeake Energy

Cashion High School BPA members visited Chesapeake Energy Company on March 8. Twenty-seven members were greeted by the college recruiter in charge of hiring summer interns. She educated the group about the importance of a summer internship during college. She also shared the importance of not only maintaining a high GPA, but also of becoming involved in campus organizations. Furthermore, she gave examples of interview questions and things she was interested in when interviewing college sophomores/juniors for an internship.

The group then got a tour of Chesapeake and learned that there are 3,500 employees in Oklahoma City, the company was established in 1989, and it is designed to resemble a college campus since Aubrey McClendon, CEO of Chesapeake attended Duke University and really enjoyed his college experience. They also got a tour of the 70,000 square foot athletic facility that is open to Chesapeake families and their immediate family.

**Class Olympics**  
**April 28, 6:30 p.m.**  
**on the football field**

**Come out and support**  
**your favorite class!**  
**There will be a concession stand**  
**and a raffle.**