

Superintendent Rambling

March, 2017



The weather continues to be moderate so far this spring! Regular season varsity Boys and Girls Basketball programs are winding down. Likewise for regular season Junior High programs. Our online homepage calendar lists specific activity dates and times on an ongoing basis for March. [*Please support our students by attending as many school events as possible during the course of the month ahead.*](#) Our Facebook page and Twitter feeds continue to serve as important sources of information during the course of the school year. Numerous activities and important dates for March include:

<u>March 4, 7,8 :</u>	8th Grade Volleyball Regionals
<u>March 6th:</u>	High School Scholastic Bowl Regional Week.
<u>March 9th:</u>	Prairieland Choral Festival
<u>March 12th:</u>	Annual FFA Labor Auction/ Banquet @ 5 PM
<u>March 13th:</u>	Board of Education Meeting at 6:00 PM
<u>March 15th:</u>	PARCC Resting ISA Testing Window Opens
<u>March 15th:</u>	Report Card Distribution
<u>March 18th :</u>	High School Boys Baseball Season starts vs. Tremont.
<u>March 22nd:</u>	High School Girls Softball Season starts vs. Kewanee.
<u>March 24th:</u>	Half Day Teacher In-service 11:30 Dismissal

At our March inservice our staff will complete continued curriculum alignment with the Illinois Learning Standards and working to enhance their chromebook instructional skills. As we approach spring we will resume our efforts at curriculum alignment.

The top priority of the board continues to be water and plumbing improvements. On Monday, February 6th our well pump failed. With no pump there was decreased water pressure, resulting in the dismissal of school. Grosch Hydraulic from Havana had to bring in a large derrick truck and extract the pump and 457 feet of well casing. We also found a section of pipe needed to be replaced. Repairs and replacement of the pump was complete by 2:30 PM on Tuesday, February 7th. Currently our water is under a boil order until the well is effectively “shocked” with chlorine. We hope the order will be rescinded in the near future. Monitoring will continue going forward. An aggressive program to replace a large section of valves and old galvanized pipe in the pump room has occurred. A new electric system to deal with fluctuations in water pressure has been installed. Finally, a dedicated compressor for the system was installed in February.

Going forward we will continue to monitor the system and make further recommendations to the Board of Education as needed. Although the water will never be pristine it should be palatable.

Clean, safe water is a priority for everyone.

On the financial front things continue to be uncertain at best in Springfield. We have continued to receive our general state aid on a regular systematic basis this school year. We continued to not, however, receive periodic payments for special education, early childhood and transportation. Due to the budget situation in Springfield at best the payments will be delayed. At worst, we may not receive one or two of these payments. This lack of commitment to schools statewide makes it incredibly hard to effectively manage school finances. On February 1st a special Education Funding Group commissioned by Governor Rauner reported out on the new Education Based Funding Model. To date no new funding legislation has been proposed. We will continue to monitor the situation going forward. We would appreciate you contacting your legislators and supporting full funding for our schools.

A continual reminder that office hours are now posted on the website for your convenience. In most instances phones will not be answered after the times listed on our web page; please refrain from calling unless it is an emergency situation. You are welcome to leave a message on the district answering machine if you would like to do so. Every effort will be made to return your call the following school day. The Jr./ Sr. High office is open from 7 AM to 3:30 PM. The Elementary Office is open from 7:30 to 4 PM.

I am as close as a simple phone call daily at 778-2204, 778-2201 or email me at sreynolds@spoonrivervalley.us during business hours. It takes everyone to be involved in academic success of our kids. Be a part of the civil solution and not a part of the problem by supporting staff publicly and raising concerns privately. Enjoy the gradually improving weather.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Mr. Reynolds