



# Tiger Pride

2015-16 Guide to Sedalia School District 200

## 25 years of success

Co-op makes  
difference  
for youngest  
students,  
Page 4



### ABOUT THE DISTRICT

- Performed at the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's "Accredited with Distinction" level each of the past four academic years
- Mission: Provide a challenging education in a safe environment for all students so they will become productive, responsible and successful members of our diverse society

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### TIGER PRIDE



An annual publication  
of Sedalla School  
District 200

Editor

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## SEDALIA 200 BOARD OF EDUCATION



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**Dr. Jeffrey Sharp**

Sedalia 200 School Board meetings typically are held at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month. The first meeting is generally a work session, held in different buildings throughout the year; the second meeting is a business session held at Smith-Cotton High School. Notices of board meetings and proposed agendas are posted at the district office and at [sedalia200.org](http://sedalia200.org).



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## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

# Local support breeds success

On behalf of Sedalia School District 200, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of our children and the mission of your school district.

The 2014-2015 school year was one of unprecedented successes in our district. Our extra-curricular and co-curricular teams performed at high levels, achieving a number of conference, state and national awards. Individual students achieved personal bests in academic and competitive endeavors.

Our district stakeholders know firsthand the importance of a quality education experience and the impact it can have on the growth and betterment of our community. We have garnered a record number of business partners that support our mission through student activities and facility upgrades. Our students are actively involved in the community and give back annually by performing hundreds of hours of community service. They



**Bradley Pollitt became superintendent of the Sedalia 200 district in 2013. He has been a teacher, coach and administrator for more than 30 years.**

know that their educational experiences are their responsibility and they work hard to achieve to their highest levels. Starting from pre-k through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, we offer a diverse curriculum that has helped enable our students to be college and career ready upon graduation.

Our students perform well on standardized tests, but they also learn that the most important work requires them to solve problems and work as a team. Our standards for excellence are high, and our children continue to excel in their

choice of continued educational opportunities, work placement or military service.

We have a passionate, caring teaching staff that is highly qualified and works hard to ensure that every student feels safe at school and leaves each day better than when they arrived. Our support staff members take pride in their jobs and understand their importance in the development of a well-rounded student. In addition, our maintenance staff keeps our facilities in outstanding condition to create a proper atmosphere for learning.

The mission of our district is to provide a challenging education in a safe environment for all students so they will become productive, responsible and successful members of our diverse society. Our ongoing commitment to maximize learning and achievement for all students is accomplished by providing high-quality staff members and exemplary educational experiences for our students.

Thank you for all that you do for students and for making their success your goal.

**Bradley Pollitt, Ed.S.  
Superintendent of Schools**



**Back, from left: Sedalia 200 Superintendent Bradley Pollitt; son, Kevin. Front, from left: daughter, Brianna; wife, Danette, with Molly; and daughter, Whitney.**

## SEDALIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 200 CENTRAL OFFICE

2806 Matthew Drive  
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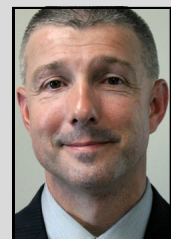
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**Dr. Nancy Scott**



Asst. Superintendent  
**Steve Triplett**



Director of Curriculum,  
Instruction and  
Assessment  
**Carla Wheeler**



Special Services  
Director **Chris Pyle**



**Principal Grace  
Kendrick**

# Co-op gives students right start

A lot of things have changed in the 25 years that the Pettis County Early Childhood Cooperative has been in operation, but what has remained a constant is the co-op's dedication to young learners.

The co-op, which opened in the 1991-92 school year, provides free services for 3- and 4-year-old children with disabilities and parent education to parents with children from birth through age 5. It is a cooperative effort among the six public school districts of Pettis County: Sedalia 200, Green Ridge R-VIII, La Monte R-IV, Pettis County R-V (Northwest), Smithton R-VI and Pettis County R-XII (Dresden).



**Pettis County Early Childhood Cooperative student Xavier Eberting gets high fives from a line of Sedalia Middle School students on his way to the preschool graduation ceremony.**

One of the co-op's programs is Parent as Teachers. PAT is for families with children in prenatal stages through age 5. Co-op staff or trained representatives from contracted agencies provide the information, support and encouragement parents need to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life.

The co-op's other programs serve pre-kindergarten students.

"Our preschool programs and services are designed for children who need a little extra help before they get to kindergarten," said Principal Grace Kendrick, who has been at the co-op since Day 1. "However, for our children who meet the criteria for special education ... in some of those situations, we need to provide them integration with a typical peer model."

While the co-op's pre-kindergarten focus is on children with special needs, a select group of students who



**FROM THE COVER: Pettis County Early Childhood Cooperative preschool student Jack Buck wrestles with his cap as Principal Grace Kendrick congratulates him on his graduation.**

are typically developing also are enrolled. Applicants for the peer model slots are screened to ensure they will serve as positive influences for all students.

Early Childhood Special Services target children ages 3 to 5 who have a significant delay in cognitive, adaptive behavior, speech/language, physical and/or social/emotional behavioral skills. The co-op offers developmental screenings throughout the year for children age 3

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# Planning leads to positive financial outlook for district

A conservative mindset and respect for taxpayer dollars are the foundation for Sedalia School District 200's finances.

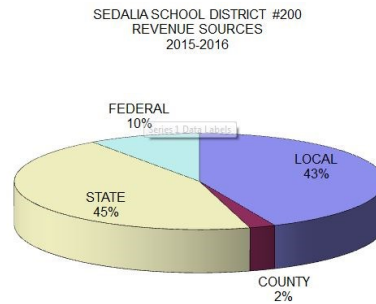
The Board of Education approved a \$51.1 million budget for the 2015-16 school year. The stated goals are for the budget to be balanced, to maintain operating balance reserves at 15 percent and to base financial planning on the educational plan. The budget is divided into four separate funds, although only three of them are currently in use. Fund 1 is for daily operating expenses, Fund 2 covers teacher wages and Fund 4 is for capital projects; Fund 3 is reserved for general obligation bonds, but Sedalia 200 has not sold general obligation bonds for levy or construction purposes, since the 1980s.

This year's projected enrollment is 4,900 students districtwide; that number has been growing steadily over the past few years, resulting in increased operating expenses. The state indicates that this will

be the first year to fully fund the Foundation Formula; however, the state adequacy target is subject to change which, in turn, negatively affects the revenue the district receives.

An examination of the Sedalia 200 budget shows that allotments for the Board of Education (0.25 percent), administration (6.49 percent), capital fund payments (10.93 percent) and building maintenance (10.89 percent) comprise 28.56 percent of expenses – the balance (71.44 percent) goes to student support, including teacher salaries, books and supplies, special education and so on.

In Spring 2015, the district completed construction of the \$7 million Tiger Stadium at Jennie Jaynes Complex project. The



project is supported by \$2.8 million in local private donations, with the balance coming from district Fund 4 capital funds; no additional taxes were sought or needed. In Fall 2015, the district began construction of a ninth grade wing and auxiliary gym at the new

high school to accommodate moving the ninth grade into the high school complex.

The district is constantly forecasting to be better prepared for its future. It is engaged in proactive planning to address student needs, including additional staffing, building renovation or expansion, or other elements that will help better prepare students for a lifetime of success.

•  
*Dr. Harriet Wolfe is chief financial officer for Sedalia School District 200.*

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WASHINGTON  
ELEMENTARY**

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Principal  
Lisa Volk

## Washington ensures parental connections

Parental involvement and engagement are key focus areas at Washington Elementary School. Attendance is an important part of the educational process, so Washington faculty and staff members work with parents to ensure the district's goals for daily attendance are met consistently. Parental engagement also is enhanced through parent-teacher conferences, an active PTA, the annual Positive Behavior Support night and two reading/math nights held throughout the school year.

Reading and math intervention times are held daily to provide academic support for all students. Those who need assistance get more personalized instruction, while those not facing challenges can refine their skills in other areas.

Washington is the smallest learning center in the Sedalia 200 district, which provides a welcoming environment for students. It offers structured afternoon recess time for kindergartners as a way to develop fine motor skills among the



**Washington Elementary students capture tadpoles as part of a science lesson during a field trip to Powell Gardens.**

school's youngest learners.

This school year, Washington and Smith-Cotton Junior High will participate in activities under the Health Services Index Grant. Washington will offer some parenting classes as well as a "Walking School Bus," in which school staff will meet students at a designated neighborhood location and walk to school together.

A Vision Therapy Program funded by the Sedalia Lions Club also is offered. The program is an early intervention to help students who may have otherwise struggled to make progress.

**SEDALIA  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICT 200  
HORACE MANN  
ELEMENTARY**

1100 W. 16th St.  
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660-826-6441



Principal  
Dr. Todd Fraley

## Collaboration, culture matter at Horace Mann

Horace Mann Elementary School boasts an array of student-centered programs within the walls of Sedalia 200's oldest facility, built in 1911.

The school is home to the district's first mixed-age program, a collection of students in grades 1 through 4 who collaborate in a multi-level environment. The classroom dynamic provides younger students with peer role models whose positive behaviors help them build success, while the older students gain leadership skills and confidence as they assist the teachers and model classroom expectations.

Horace Mann students also benefit from cooperative programs with other schools. SKILLS (Student Kindling Individuals Learning Leading Success) is a collaborative program with Sedalia 200's Whittier High School, in which



**Horace Mann computer lab instructor Sharon Smith approves of a student's response to her question on the first day of classes for the 2014-15 school year.**

Whittier students visit Horace Mann twice a week to participate in mentoring activities with select students. Additionally, Horace Mann partners with State Fair Community

College's Daum Museum of Contemporary Art in the implementation of Visual Thinking Strategies, which uses art to teach critical thinking, communication skills and visual literacy to young people.

The school also hosts an annual Multicultural Heritage Night, which allows the school's diverse families and students to share their cultures, cuisine and traditions with the Horace Mann community.

This school year, Horace Mann will pilot the Project Lead the Way Launch program. This STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) program will give students hands-on experiences with a kindergarten through fourth grade STEM curriculum. The modules are designed to give students learning opportunities in biomedical, computer science and engineering platforms.

# Service work builds character at Heber Hunt

Service learning is a big part of the Heber Hunt Elementary experience. Through these opportunities, students collaborate to provide a needed service for their community while their teacher ties in learning standards. Students develop character and skills needed to become productive citizens.

One example is the school's annual Day of Service. This past year, projects included school beautification, a food drive, interviewing local veterans, entertaining residents at a care facility and performing random acts of kindness.

Other Heber Hunt programs include a mentor program for students who need additional support, comprehensive guidance and counseling services and a Positive Behavior Support (PBS) system that creates a safe atmosphere where students are responsible and respectful learners.

The annual Thanksgiving Feast is a school tradition. All students and invited guests enjoy a traditional meal together, followed by a student performance.

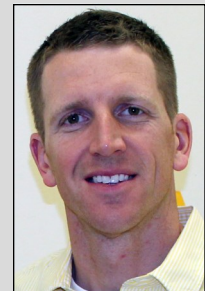
Heber Hunt also is the only Sedalia 200 elementary school to offer a strings program for fourth graders interested in playing stringed instruments.



Teacher Kevin Ditzfeld dishes out green beans during Heber Hunt's annual Thanksgiving Feast.

**SEDALIA  
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**PARKVIEW  
ELEMENTARY**

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**Principal  
Stephanie Jackson**

# Parkview offers a lot, both inside and out

One of the highlights of Parkview Elementary School actually exists outside the school's walls.

Parkview features an outdoor classroom that allows students to explore nature through a variety of hands-on activities. Students can identify plants and insects, see how flowers grow and examine weather patterns.

Another school specialty is its show choir, Parkview Pizzazz. Students in grades 3 and 4 have the opportunity to participate in an afterschool choir directed by music teacher Cindy Calafaty. Parkview Pizzazz performs throughout the school year at various events across the area, including Christmas

caroling at local nursing homes and singing the National Anthem at Missouri Mavericks hockey games.

Parkview has an active PTA that provides activities for students and teachers throughout the school year, such as the Holiday Store, Grandparents Day and the end-of-year Field Day.

Parkview's students mission is to be a safe school where students are responsible and respectful learners. Implementing Positive Behavior Support provide structure for encouraging positive behavior.

Every spring, third grade students research a famous person and bring their subject to life in a living museum.



**Student Cooper Sparks builds a gingerbread house, an annual activity for Parkview Elementary fourth graders.**

## CO-OP

From Page 4  
months to 5 years, and if screenings indicate a child younger than age 3 shows delays, the student is referred for services outside the district.

"For children over age 3, if we see a concern we refer them to either our Title One preschool program or early childhood special education. If they meet eligibility for either of those programs, then we provide the services" Kendrick said.

Title 1 preschool is designed for children who show a concern in their development but not significant enough for special education services. While early childhood special education is available to students from all co-op districts, only Sedalia residents are eligible for the Title 1 preschool's 80 seats. Kendrick said the Title 1 preschool has proven beneficial for all students, but especially

those from homes where English is not the primary language.

Kendrick has seen many changes through the co-op's 25 years. Federal and state guideline demands have increased and more children are being identified for and receiving services. The co-op's teachers are receiving more intensive training and the understanding and use of data has increased.

"Early intervention must align with what schools are doing in the K-12 setting," she said. "We need to have our children as prepared for kindergarten as possible. Along with readiness and social skills, we incorporate much brain-based research information, and motor and sensory integration into the activities we do with our children. We are more aware of and have training on how all these play an important role in the development of our children and future school success."

Each spring the co-op holds a graduation ceremony for the



**With Chase Butler on her lap, Pettis County Early Childhood Cooperative teacher Dana North explains to preschool graduate Peyton Tankersley what her certificate reads during the ceremony in the Sedalia Middle School gym.**

students who will move on to kindergarten. But Kendrick and her staff continue to keep tabs on their co-op kids through their high school graduations.

Each year, members of the junior high and high school singing groups come to the co-op to perform for students and staff.

"When those students come back every year to the co-op, they say, 'We went to school here,' and it is exciting for us to see how these kids have grown and all they have accomplished over the years," Kendrick said. "We saw them very young, and it is exciting to see all they have done."



# Skyline finds power in promoting positives

Each of the past two years, Skyline Elementary School has earned the School-Wide Positive Behavior Support (SW-PBS) Bronze Award. Skyline has fully implemented SW-PBS which is a school-wide behavior model that focuses on common expectations for all students and frequent recognition of students and staff through rewards and incentives. Students are recognized and rewarded daily for their doing the right thing. This has created a positive climate in the building for both students and staff.

Skyline also boasts an active parent network. It has an involved PTA which sponsors Family Reading Nights, Grandparents Day, the school carnival and other events. All Pro Dads allows fathers and their children to meet for breakfast once a month; the dads also discuss topics regarding parenting, activities to do with kids and ways to be an involved father.

Skyline students start every day with a greeting from a member of the school's Safety Patrol, a select squad of fourth graders who pro-



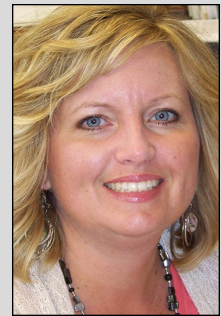
**Student Michael Franklin portrays "Star Wars" creator George Lucas in Skyline Elementary's Living Museum of Inventors.**

mote responsibility, dependability and self-esteem throughout the building. Safety Patrol members greet car riders in the morning during arrival time, help supervise hallways during arrival and dismissal, and help supervise the gym during bus dismissal.

**SEDALIA  
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Principal  
Sara Pannier

# Teams, Tiger Stripes boost SMS students

Sedalia Middle School provides a seamless transition for fifth grade students as they move from our elementary schools to Smith-Cotton Junior High. SMS follows the traditional middle school concept of teaming, which creates smaller learning communities within a large population. Each grade level has three teams; each team has four core teachers who teach the same students (about 125 students per team). The goal is to create a more personal environment where students and teachers get to know one another in more detail which allows for personalized instruction and motivation.

This year, the fifth grade students will participate in a variety of instructional strategies and curriculum. Science will utilize layered curriculum, which encourages complex thinking, holds students accountable for their own learning and helps them find meaning by relating the lessons to the real world. English Language Arts will initiate Units of Instruction that will blend both reading and writing standards through application and research. Math will implement a new



**Sedalia Middle School students await their graduation from the DARE program, provided by the Pettis County Sheriff's Office.**

program with problem solving as the center of math learning through real-world, hands-on experiences.

One of the key elements at SMS is the School-Wide Positive Behavior Support system; the school received Silver Level Recognition from the state for the success of its program. SW-PBS is a process for teaching expected social and behavior skills so the focus can be on teaching and learning. The guiding principles of our Tiger Stripes are Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe and Be a Learner.

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# Grade realignment brings change to SCJH

This will be a year of significant change at Smith-Cotton Junior High, as two-thirds of the student body and one-third of the teaching staff will be new to the building as a result of grade level realignment. The junior high is shifting to house grades 6-8 this year, and Principal Jason Curry and his staff are instilling a sense of community and pride from the first day of classes.

One of the highlights each year for junior high students is the Day of Service, which coincides with Homecoming. Students spend the day giving back to the community in some form while learning the value of helping others.

Among the community service projects performed are campus landscaping, writing letters to soldiers, reading books to elementary school students, raising funds for the Salvation Army soup kitchen and for the Sedalia Fire Department, and cleaning up downtown.

The junior high is housed in the former high school building, so it is brimming with history.



**Smith-Cotton Junior High National Junior Honor Society officers discuss their service project at Open Door with the school board.**

But while respect is paid to the past, the mindset is to look forward and prepare students for next-generation learning and opportunities. Each grade level is divided into three academic teams, which allows teachers to collaborate to better meet the needs of each of their students.

Curry said the new grade alignment “will be beneficial for this age group as their activities and interests are more aligned at this time. We also look forward to reestablishing the tradition of eighth grade graduation.”

**SEDALIA  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICT 200**

**SMITH-COTTON  
JUNIOR HIGH**

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**Principal Jason Curry**

Asst. Principals:

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**WHITTIER  
HIGH SCHOOL**

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Sedalia, MO 65301  
660-829-4764



**Director Martin White**

Asst. Director:  
B.J. Curry

## **Whittier gives teens a chance to succeed**

Whittier High School offers an alternative learning environment for students who are more likely to succeed outside of the traditional high school setting. The goal of Whittier's course of studies is to cultivate responsible citizens who can function in a rapidly changing world.

Whittier operates both traditional school day and late afternoon sessions, and offers a final chance for earning a diploma through the Promoting Academically Successful Students (P.A.S.S.) program. When there are reasons that a student can no longer attend high school during the day, P.A.S.S. might be an option.

Classes are all offered through PLATO, an Internet-based program. Core courses are offered and grades awarded based on Smith-Cotton High School's grading scale. Students who complete all of the graduation requirements are awarded a diploma from Smith-Cotton and are eligible to participate in graduation ceremonies. P.A.S.S. meets 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday each week. There are three 50-minute periods per evening.



**Horace Mann student Tiara Crutchfield, left, learns how to check 9s on her multiplication tables from Whittier High student Cheyenne Smith, second from right, during a SKILLS program mentoring session at the elementary school.**

SKILLS – Students Kindling Individuals Learning Leading Success – teams Whittier students with children at Horace Mann and Heber Hunt elementaries. The Whittier students travel to each elementary school twice a week, and the pairs spend an hour each visit working on academics and building camaraderie.

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# S-C provides opportunities for all students

Tradition and Tiger Pride are the hallmarks of Smith-Cotton High School.

S-C offers rigorous academic programming to prepare students for their “next level” challenges, whether that is continuing education at a college or university, military service or joining the working world. Through partnerships with State Fair Community College and the University of Central Missouri, students can take dual credit courses, allowing them to make progress on their college degree while still in high school. Also available is a vocational program with SFCC, giving students going into building trades and other lines of work opportunities to build their skills and earn professional certifications.

Students also can participate in activities that help further their career aspirations (Project Lead The Way, DECA, FBLA, FCCLA), build leadership skills (Student Council, National Honor Society, JROTC), or bring out the best of their artistic (music, drama, fine art) or athletic abilities.



**Smith-Cotton High Student Council members prepare to deliver Thanksgiving baskets to families in the community. Contents of the baskets are donated by the school's students and staff members.**

We show our Tiger Pride regularly, celebrating the achievements of current students and alumni who have made their marks in the world and set high standards to which we all can aspire. Our focus is on helping our students reach their goals of leading productive lives.

**SEDALIA  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICT 200  
SMITH-COTTON  
HIGH SCHOOL**

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**Principal Wade Norton**

Asst. Principals:

Robin Wyattte, Joe Doyle,  
Stacy Curry

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EDUCATION IN FOCUS: THE ARTS

# S-C senior writes, directs comedy

Keelly Jones's "incredible journey" reached its final destination on the Heckart Performing Arts Center stage.



Jones

The Smith-Cotton High School senior wrote and directed the one-act play "Four Alibis" as the final project for teacher Teri Turner's Repertory Theatre class. The farce premiered in

March 2015, with S-C students, faculty and parents in the audience.

"My show was, beyond the term, remarkable. The entire show was an incredible journey from its beginning to its end," Jones said.

Repertory Theatre students have all year

to select and design a show that they will direct.

"This is an opportunity for students to step off of the stage and be fully in charge of a production as a first-time director," Turner said. "Keelly has worked all year to prepare his script for production and from beginning to end he did an excellent job."

The play is centered in a courtroom, where Mason Crest, played by junior Ryan Collins, is accused of multiple murders. But this is no ordinary courtroom. Both the prosecutor (Ehlana Gilger) and the defense attorney (Heather Bryson) want a quick guilty verdict and the judge (Courtney Cooper) is busy checking her phone during the trial.

While writing and directing his own show were significant challenges, Jones had to



Murder defendant Mason Crest, right, played by Ryan Collins, ponders a question from the Prosecutor, left, played by Ehlana Gilger, during "Four Alibis," a one-act play written and directed by Smith-Cotton High School senior Keelly Jones. The Defense Attorney, center, played by Heather Bryson, awaits Crest's response.

overcome other obstacles, as well.

"My involvement in two other shows at the same time placed a heavy demand on myself and my actors. But with their patience and perseverance, we pulled through, and presented a show that I, as well as our audience, enjoyed and appreciated," he said.

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**EDUCATION IN FOCUS: LANGUAGE ARTS**

# Pen pals help students expand writing skills

Yelena Romenskaya smiled broadly as she packed her holly-bordered stationary with details about candy, animals and Christmas. She double-checked her letter with her rough draft to ensure she got everything right. She carefully folded the letter, then came the awful part – licking the envelope.

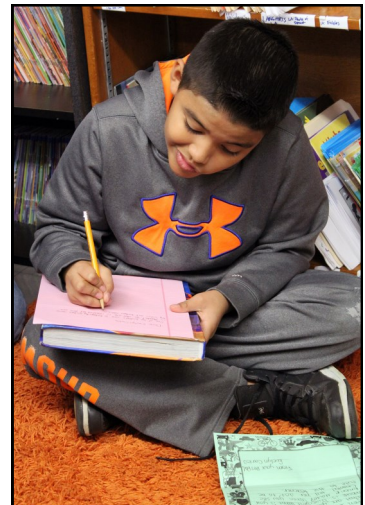
Yelena and other students in the English for Speakers of Other Languages program at Smith-Cotton Junior High and Heber Hunt Elementary School sharpened their language and writing skills – and built friendships – through a pen pal

program launched by teachers Karmen Butler and Jennifer Farrar. Butler’s Heber Hunt students completed letters with topics ranging from family visits to favorite soccer players. Farrar’s junior high students then responded, writing about Christmas wish lists and the candy that the elementary students had sent with their letters.

Yelena said she enjoyed the pen pal project because she had to read her pen pal’s letter, understand the writer’s message and “write everything properly” in her response. Fellow eighth grader Claudia Sotelo got to



**ABOVE: S-C Junior High ESOL teacher Jennifer Farrar, right, points out a correction that needs to be made in eighth grader Claudia Sotelo’s letter. RIGHT: Heber Hunt fourth grader Johnny Carlos Gonzalez searches for the right word for his letter.**



know her pen pal through their exchanges, and, “I have to (write) sentences, not like when I am texting.”

Butler, who taught many of the junior high students when they were younger, paired up the pen pals based on their personalities and interests. She and Farrar got the students together for a picnic lunch at Liberty Park in the spring.

Farrar said the letters provided a good way for students to practice their writing and un-

derstand how to communicate properly with their audience.

While they can use “social language” to interact with friends, they need to use more standardized language to communicate clearly with those who they do not know.

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**EDUCATION IN FOCUS: PROBLEM SOLVING**

# Project uses technology to link schools across U.S.

Geography and technology came together when Heber Hunt Elementary students connected with classrooms across the country.

Mixed age teacher Dana White's students participated in a Mystery Skype program, in which classes used the video conferencing system to interact with each other and ask "yes-no" questions to try to determine where the other class is located in the United States. Over the course of a week, White's students connected with classes in Utah, Delaware and Nebraska.

Fourth grader Boston Middleton said each class got a maximum of 20 questions to try to determine the other school's state, but the goal was to use maps and critical thinking to make a correct guess in as few questions as possible.

"It makes learning more fun," Boston said of the program, which also allowed students to see how other classrooms were set up. After each class guessed the correct state, the students shared additional information about their state, city and school.



Heber Hunt student Weston Crawford, facing the screen, prepares to answer a question from Chris, a student at Elkhorn Valley School in Tilden, Neb., during the Mystery Skype session in February 2015.

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# Community partners make Tiger Stadium a reality



One of the highlights of Tiger Stadium is the scoreboard, which includes a video display panel and stereo sound. Local donors made it possible to add this amenity to the complex.

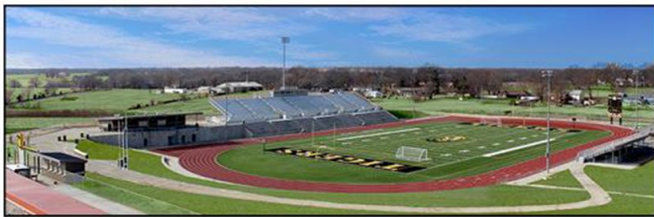
Smith-Cotton High School now boasts one of the most dynamic athletic facilities in the state, thanks in large measure to community partners who continue to support the district in many ways.

The \$7 million price tag for the Tiger Stadium at Jennie Jaynes Complex project was offset by more than \$2 million in private donations from local businesses and district supporters. Another \$1 million came from the sale of Jennie Jaynes Stadium, and the district reaped \$1.5 million in savings from certificate refinancing. That left about \$2 million, which came from Fund 4 construction dollars.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held March 16, 2015, with hundreds of community mem-



The player lockers and tip-down helmet-and-shoulder pad racks in the football locker room were designed and created by the district's maintenance staff, led by Maintenance Director Richie Simons.



bers joining project donors to get a look at the new facility.

The complex features Heckart Field, a synthetic turf football field, as well as an all-weather track, concessions buildings on home and away sides, field house and practice fields. The home stands seat about 3,000, with the visitors stands holding about 500. It also features a state-of-the-art scoreboard that includes a video display panel and booming stereo sound.

The S-C track teams christened the stadium, with both the boys and girls squads bringing home 2015 West Central Conference titles. While the track teams and

football program will be the primary residents of the stadium, it also will be used by the Tiger Pride Marching Band and JROTC program, as well as for physical education classes. Other sports, including baseball, softball and soccer will use the turf surface for practices and occasional games or matches.

The complex eventually will add facilities for S-C's softball and tennis programs.

Superintendent Brad Pollitt expressed his gratitude for the continued support the district receives from the community. "When I look at Tiger Stadium, I see fantastic opportunities



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Tiger Stadium is the product of many generous donors, some of whom are acknowledged on the main concessions building.

for our students that were created by the generosity of our community partners and local taxpayers,” Pollitt said. “We are indebted to them for their commitment to make Sedalia a great place to live, work and play, and for their dedication to the students of our district. We cannot thank them enough.”



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**EDUCATION IN FOCUS: PROJECT LEAD THE WAY**

# STEM classes lead robotics team to top of world



Team SCREAM's robot, KONG, stacks and moves totes in the Recycle Rush competition at the FIRST Kansas City Regional.

Team SCREAM – Smith-Cotton Robotics, Engineering and Mathematics – qualified for the FIRST Robotics World Championships in St. Louis in 2015 for the third consecutive year. The foundation for that success is built daily in Project Lead The Way courses offered at the high school.

The shift of freshmen to the high school this school year and the ongoing need to prepare students for next-generation jobs has resulted in an expansion of STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) courses not only at the high school but also at the junior high with Gateway To Technology, and at Horace Mann Elementary. In addition, Team SCREAM is expanding its efforts to give younger students opportunities to compete in FIRST's LEGO League, which introduces those in grades 4 through 8 to fun applications of science and technology through robotics. There also are plans for a competitive

robotics team at the junior high.

Interest in STEM classes has been sparked not only by the explosion of technology in today's world, but also by the tremendous success of Team SCREAM, which was on the runner-up alliance on the Newton Field in St. Louis, losing to the eventual world champions. Team SCREAM also hosted the first Missouri State Robotics Championship, sponsored by Maxion Wheels, at Sedalia's Mathewson Exhibition Center. The team received Maxion's Innovation in Design Award for its robot, KONG, and teacher Michael Wright was named the 2015 Missouri Robotics Coach of the Year by his peers.

The team benefits from support from Sedalia's business community, including Ditzfeld Transfer, Gardner Denver, Maxion Wheels, Waterloo Industries, Duke Manufacturing, Ideal Tool & Dye, Specialty Sportswear, McCarthy Toyota and others.



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**SEDALIA 200 2014-15 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

The **Smith-Cotton Army JROTC Tiger Battalion Raider mixed team** repeated as national champions in the November 2014 competition in Molena, Ga. Team members were **Angel Alvarez, Steven Bradbury, Caitlyn Bridges, Luis Estrada, Rosbel Garza, Logan Gleason, Jessica Miranda, Yoana Nandho, Noah Rosendale, Christian Sarabia and Cristina Tejada**. The Tiger Battalion Raider team has won the national championship five of the past six years. Competitions consist of physical fitness, one-rope bridges, 10K road march, rope climb, pipe drill and a surprise event.

In addition, the **Tiger Battalion Academic Team** was one of only 24 teams nationwide to qualify for the 2015 Army JROTC Academic Bowl Championship in Washington, D.C. The team (right, from left) of **Joshua Lauer, Logan Tatum, Nico Dalumpines, Eidan Ragus** and captain **McKenna Clippert** fell just one win short of reaching the final round.



**Knight**

Senior **Abby Knight**, the Class of 2015 valedictorian, also was a National Merit Scholarship finalist and an All-State second team selection in volleyball. She received a full-ride scholarship to play volleyball at Eastern Illinois University, an NCAA Division I school in Charleston, Ill.

**Sedalia School District 200** was the top performer among districts with 3,500 to 9,999 students in the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s School Breakfast Challenge. The goal was to increase daily breakfast participation in school districts statewide. Sedalia 200, with its 128 percent increase, was the Gold Award performer in its class.

Skyline Elementary fourth grader **Alaina Ayers** was one of 13 statewide winners in the Missouri Youth/Adult Alliance Red Ribbon Art Contest. Her piece, selected from 88 school-level winners, was published in the alliance’s 2015 anti-drug calendar. The pieces focused on the concept “stay true to yourself, be drug-free.”

**Sedalia School District 200** received the Sedalia Progress Award at the annual Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner. The honor was in recognition of

the completion of the Tiger Stadium at Jennie Jaynes Complex project.

Smith-Cotton High School was the big winner at the 2014 Missouri State Thespians conference in Kansas City. Speech and theater teacher **Teri Turner** was named the Judith Rethwisch Outstanding Thespian Teacher of the Year, Principal **Wade Norton** was the Administrator of the Year and senior **Alec Wilken** received a Community Outreach Grant which was used for his “Theatre for a Cause” production; all proceeds from the show went to the Sedalia Area Literacy Council.

**Todd Fraley**, Horace Mann Elementary principal, received the 2015 Heart for Art Award from the Missouri Art Education Association during the group’s spring conference in Kansas City. Fraley’s nominators wrote, “In an environment of increasing pressure to reduce or eliminate non-core subjects, Mr. Fraley has supported the increased use of the arts within his school.”

Four distinguished Smith-Cotton High School alumni were inducted into the school’s halls of fame this past school year. The Athletics Hall of Fame added



**Turner**

**Kelli Lowman Tosti** (track, basketball; Class of 1987), **Michael Bryson** (soccer, baseball, basketball, Class of 1980) and **Van Van Dyne** (track, football, basketball, Class of 1956). Inducted into the Activities Hall was **Bob Cummings**, who taught concert, marching and jazz band, as well as orchestra and vocal music, in the Sedalia 200 district for almost 30 years. No more than three eligible candidates can be inducted into each hall in any year.

Smith-Cotton Junior High social studies teacher **Ashley Young** was honored as the Missouri Council for the Social Studies Teacher of the Year. Young was recognized for his classroom innovations, including regular incorporation of current events into his curriculum



**Young**

The **Smith-Cotton Talking Tigers speech and debate team** won the West Central Conference 2015 championship. Seniors **Alec Wilken** and **Keely Jones** competed at the MSHSAA Speech and Debate State Competition. Both competed in Domestic and International Extemporaneous Speaking, placing in the top 20 in the state but did not advance to finals. Jones did advance to finals in Prose and placed seventh in the state.

**SEDALIA 200 2014-15 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

From Page 21



**Thomas**

Sedalia Middle School science teacher **Tera Thomas** received an Energizing Our Environment Mini-Grant from KCP&L to create an aquaponics program for her students. Aquaponics is a process of sharing nutrients given off by fish with plants.

Through the program, students gained first

-hand knowledge of ecosystem relationships and how the fish helped grow better crops.

Five Smith-Cotton High students – **Lanie Beard, Haleigh Carson, Ashlyn Witt, Noah Burnett** and **Stephen Weeks** – were selected for the Missouri Choral Directors Association’s All-State Show Choir. The students were members of S-C’s New Score Singers, who were selected Grand Champions in the 5A Division of the Rock Bridge Show Choir competition. New Score also won the FAME Award at the FAME Branson competition, earning an

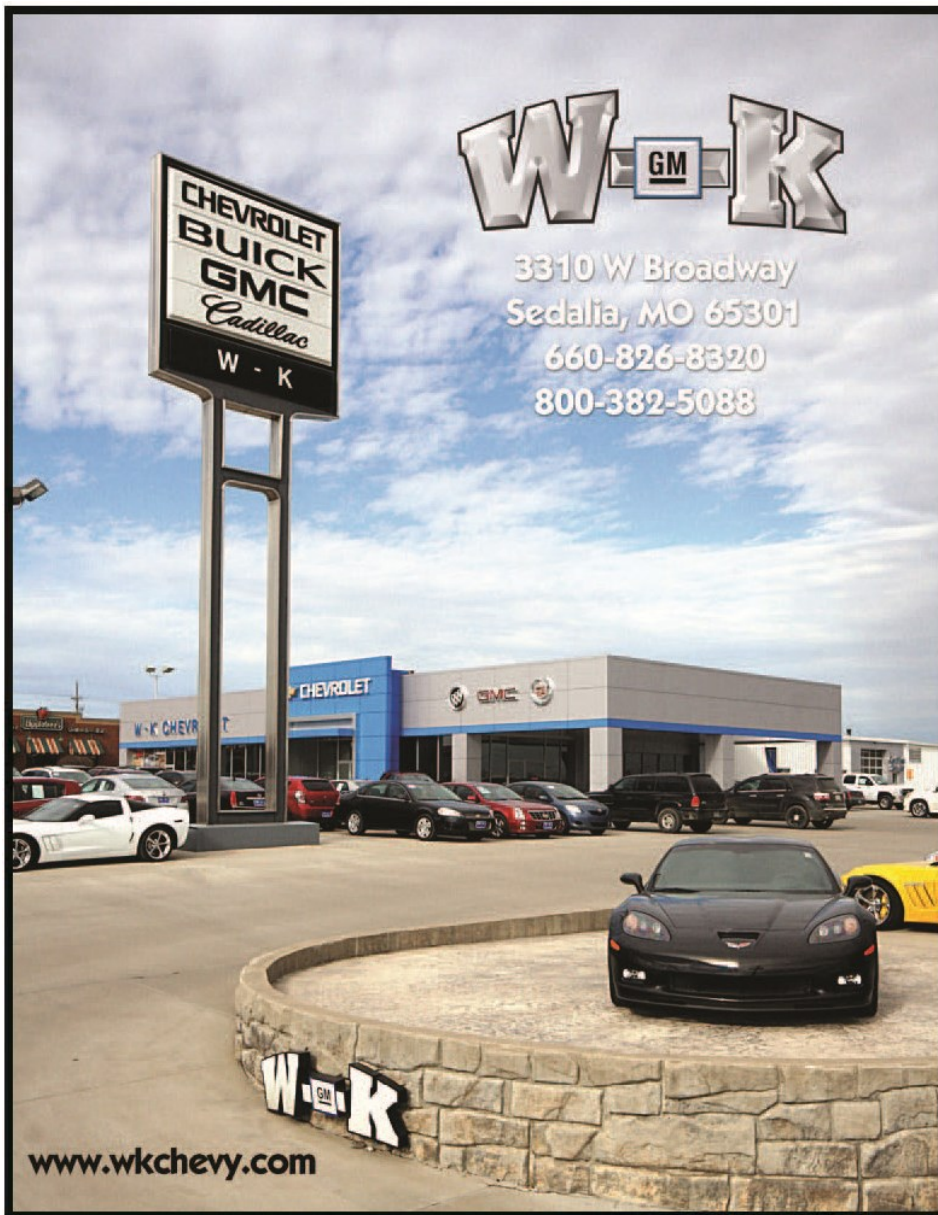
opportunity to perform at the FAME Nationals in Chicago.



**The Lady Tigers 4x100 meter relay team of Monique Grant, Mekeba Nash, Mariona Ward and Saige Peterson.**

The **track and field teams** did a great job christening Tiger Stadium, with both the boys and girls teams winning 2015 West Central Conference titles. It was the boys’ third consecutive WCC championship and the first WCC girls track title in school history. At the 5A state meet, **Mariona Ward** was seventh in girls long jump, ninth in the girls 300-meter hurdles and fourth in girls 100-meter hurdles; also for the Lady Tigers, **Monique Grant** was eighth in the 100 meters and sixth in the 200 meters, **Mekeba Nash** was ninth in the triple jump and the 4x100 relay team of Ward, Grant, Nash and **Saige Peterson** took sixth place. For the boys, **Chance Johnson** was fifth in high jump and eighth in long jump; **Keoni Hale** was fourth in boys triple jump.

**Sedalia Middle School** earned Silver Award recognition for implementation of Schoolwide Positive Behavior Support programs. In a news release from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, state SW-PBS State Coordinator Dr. Nanci W. Johnson said, "Implementing these types of strategies not only takes time, but real systemic change on behalf of the school. Schools that incorporate these types of supportive environments make a real difference in the lives of all students, including those who deal with behavior challenges every day." **Parkview, Washington** and **Skyline** elementary earned Bronze awards.



**SEDALIA 200 2014-15 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

From Page 22

The **Smith-Cotton boys soccer team** had its most successful season in decades, finishing third in the states Class 3A division. **Ethan Weller** was named the state Coach of the Year and junior **Roberto Ramirez** was selected the 3A Defensive Player of the Year.

Sports and studies mix well at Smith-Cotton High School, as 21 athletes earned Academic All-State honors in their respective sports.



**Herren**

Sedalia 200 counselor **Matthew Herren** was named Central Missouri School Counselor of the Year

and Heber Hunt Principal **Brendan Eisenmenger** was honored as Counselor Advocate, Administrator of the Year at the Central Missouri School Counselor Appreciation Breakfast

**Smith-Cotton Tigers boys basketball** had its most successful year in almost two decades under the direction of first-year Head Coach **Brennan Scanlon**, who was named the Sedalia Democrat's boys basketball Coach of the Year. The Tigers won the West Central Conference title for the first time in 19 years and players **Chance Johnson** and **Jacob Bergman** both were All-District selections.

Smith-Cotton High School took eighth place in the 2015



**S-C boys soccer players celebrate their third place finish at the state Class 3A finals.**

statewide Envirothon. Students from across Missouri compete in categories including aquatics, soil, wildlife, current events and forestry. Science teacher and team sponsor **Mona McCormack** said the team has qualified for the state competition every year since 2009.

Some other notable athletic achievements: The **S-C baseball team** repeated as WCC champs, the **Lady Tigers soccer team** finished as WCC co-champions and the **S-C wrestling team** had four athletes — **Tanner Proctor (138)**, **Blake Pomajzl (126)**, **Logan Parham (120)** and **Kris Houk (113)** — qualify to compete at the state championships.

More than 100 Smith-Cotton students qualified for the state's **A+ Program**. Participants must meet high standards in attendance, discipline and academics, and complete 50 hours of tutoring; those who succeed can attend a Missouri community college or specified technical school with their first two years' tuition paid by the state.

Three students — **Aaron Welch**, **Nathaniel Geer** and **Austin Donohue** — graduated from **Project SEARCH**, a pro-

gram that provides workplace experience through internships at SFCC and with participating employers in the Sedalia area.

The **Smith-Cotton High Math Team** finished in the top three at every competition it participated in during the 2014-15



**Gooch**

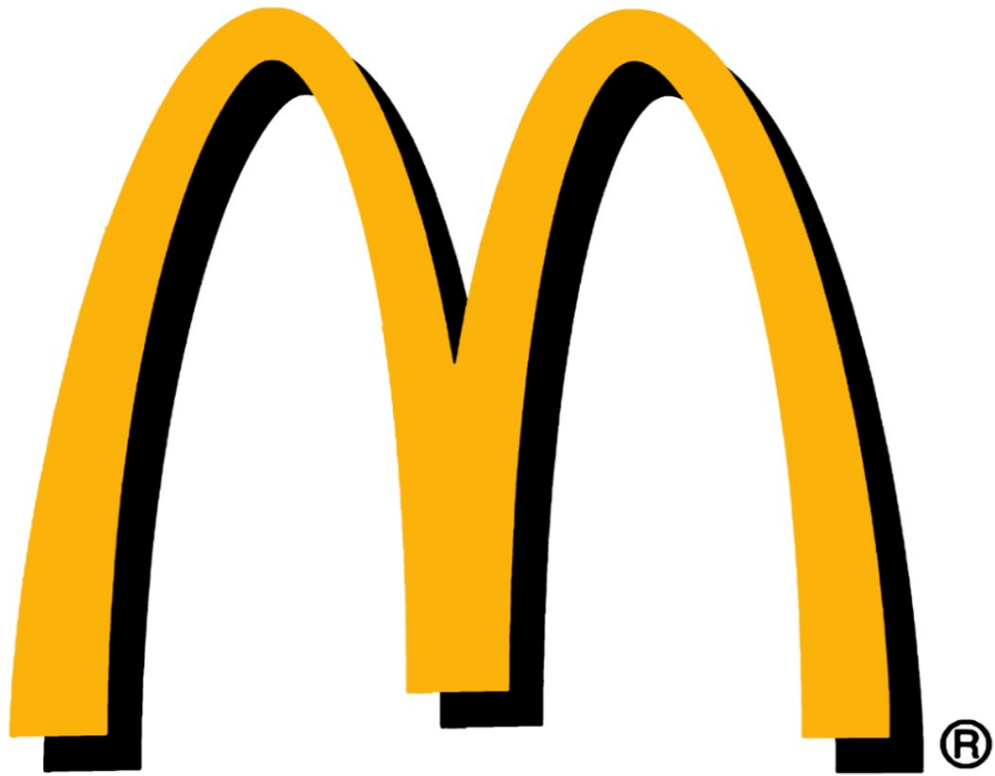
school year, including taking first place at the Cole Camp Math Relays. Senior **Josh Gooch** was named Top Senior at every event the team competed in.

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