



Mustang Express

Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School

May 2008

USD 323 Superintendent: Darel Stufflebeam
Junior/Senior High Principal: Dennis Post
Assistant Principal/Activities Director: Kent Rogers

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Yellow Bricks and Ruby Slippers

by Frankie and Robert Summers

For the past 13 years, Kent Rogers has provided Yellow Bricks for the foundation of high school athletics and education for hundreds of students in his "Emerald City" Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School. Like the Cyclone in the Wizard of Oz, he has taken a whirlwind approach to his position as assistant principal and the athletic director. Yet, his control of that energy earned universal respect in and out of the junior high and high school realms.

The Rock Creek students--and there were a few Munchkins along the way--have always been his priority. Mr. Rogers tactfully guides them down the Yellow Brick Road, teaching them to be successful on the athletic field as well as in the classroom.

If you have seen a Man Behind the Curtain making things happen almost like magic, it could be the Wizard, but more likely it's Mr. Rogers. Of course, he plays many roles. Like the well oiled Tin Man, he applies the lubrication of planning and attention to detail so athletic events are "squeak free." Rock Creek patrons have been amazed by the Heart he and his associates demonstrate as they hosted many events beyond a school's normal schedule. Like the Scarecrow, he has Always had the Brains to run the events with efficiency, fairness and a height of professionalism.

His devotion and yes, even sacrifice, have developed opportunities for Dorothy and all her Rock Creek friends to discover their talents and follow their Dreams.

Of course along the way, Mr. Rogers has had to walk through a Field of Deadly Poppies. Although saddled with some health issues that made him feel like he was Not In Kansas Anymore, these never prevented him from giving 110%, as is his standard. Certainly not "Cowardly," he shows a Lion's Courage to maintain his health and seek healing, no matter what the Crystal Ball hands him.

And who is the Wicked Witch of the West? There is no one. Kent Rogers is revered by family, co-workers, teachers, coaches, students, patrons and friends. These loyal subjects can only think of words like "excellence, dedication, devotion, professional" and "friend." Maybe Glinda, the Witch of the North, tapped this "Wizard" with her scepter to help give him these qualities. Or maybe he simply had them all along.

From listening to all the Auntie Em's to dealing with ToTo and the like at the FFA Barnyard, if ever a Wonderful Wizard there was, Mr. Rogers is one because he's a *problem solver* for Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School. With the talents of a Wizard unsurpassed in all of Oz, he will be truly missed and practically irreplaceable when he climbs into that Gondola.

We know, this is really Kansas, but you helped make it a Land of Ahs, and we wish you the best in your retirement years. You with the Brains, Heart and Courage can always call this home away from home. But your Heart will lead you to your Dream, your priority, your family. You will be blessed and surrounded by them in those days of relaxation and well-earned rest. Kick back, put on your slippers--you might see if you can find some in a Ruby Red color--or just imagine the color and tap them together in your mind. You'll be with us Somewhere Over The Rainbow thinking of all the wonderful things you have been a part of in USD 323. Thanks, Mr. Rogers.



Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time
5/22	Rock Creek 8 th Grade Celebration	6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.
5/23	State Track Meet @ Wichita Last day of school	TBA
5/24	State Track Meet @ Wichita	TBA
5/26	Holiday – Schools/Offices closed	
5/27	Teacher Workday	
5/28-5/30	Inservice/Curriculum Writing	
6/2-6/26	Rock Creek Summer School	8:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
6/2-6/6	High School Boys Basketball Camp Freshman Boys Basketball Camp	8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. to 12:00
6/4-7/2	Driver Education	
6/9-6/12	Junior High Boys Basketball Camp	12:00-2:00 p.m.
6/11	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
6/11-6/13	High School Girls Basketball Camp	10:00 a.m.-12:00
6/14	ACT Test	TBA
7/04	Holiday – Offices Closed	
7/7-7/9	Junior High Volleyball Camp	10:00 a.m.-12:00
7/9	Board of Education Meeting	7:00 p.m.
7/21-7/25	High School Football Camp Junior High Football Camp	6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
7/21-7/26	High School Volleyball Camp	TBA
8/4-8/5	Enrollment	TBA
8/8	New Teacher Inservice	8:00 a.m.
8/11	ALL Employee Inservice Parent Sports Meetings	8:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
8/12	Teacher Inservice/Workday Parent Sports Meetings	8:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
8/13	Teacher Workday Board of Education Meeting	8:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
8/14	First Day of School Parent Sports Meetings	7:00 p.m.
8/18	Fall Sports Practices Start	TBA
8/29	Individual Pictures Fall Sports Pictures Fall Sports Scrimmages	8:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
8/30	HSVB Varsity @ Wabaunsee Tournament	9:00 a.m.

Forensics Team Wins State Championship

The Rock Creek Forensics team won their second consecutive state championship on Saturday, May 3. Forty-two 3A schools competed for the top prize at Wichita East High School. With nearly 400 entries, the 3A contest is the largest contest out of all the classes in the state.

Rock Creek has two individual state champions this year. *Audrey Peterson* defended her championship in Dramatic Solo Acting of a year ago, and *Morgan Eichman* became the new state champion in Prose Interpretation. *Audrey* also brought home second place in Oration, and *Regan Baker* won second place in Extemporaneous Speaking. *Nolan Fike* and *Colby Helget* won 4th in Duet Acting, and *Colby* won 6th in Poetry Interpretation.

Interestingly, *Audrey* also finished second in Oration last year, so she managed to win Dramatic Solo Acting and finished second in Oration both her junior and senior years. *Regan* also matched her own efforts of a year ago, finishing second in Extemporaneous and 7th in Informative Speaking both her junior and senior years. Finally *Colby Helget* finished 6th in Poetry Interpretation both his junior and senior years. This year's senior class was amazing, and amazingly consistent.

Making semi-finals for the Mustangs were *Morgan Eichman* in Poetry, *Sam Cott* in Poetry, *TJ Roberts* in Prose, *Regan Baker* in Informative, and *Torrey Peterson* in Oration. Rock Creek had 11 entries make semi-finals. Lyons and Silver Lake, the second and third-place teams, each had 7 events make semi-finals.

Also participating and earning points for the Mustangs were *Sam* and *Torrey* in Duet Acting, *Brian Sixbury* and *Adara Leonard* in Duet Acting, *Justin Hollingshead* in Dramatic Solo Acting, and *Brian Sixbury* in Informative Speaking.

"I was extremely happy for the students. They really deserve the win," said Coach Miller. "This senior class has been outstanding. They will be sorely missed. They have done so much for this speech program, and for the school."

Rock Creek students did well in other competition at state as well. In Lincoln-Douglas Debate, *April Norton* finished second and *Amanda Oakley* finished 6th. "I know *April* was disappointed, having been the defending state champion, but second place at state is still pretty good," said Coach Miller.

In festival competition, *Alex Hennigh* and *Ashley Hodges* earned II ratings with their prose and poetry performances, while *Courtney Schooler* earned a I ranking and a state medal with her prose. "I am really happy for *Courtney*. She has struggled with speaking too quickly this year, but she did it correctly when it counted most," said Coach Miller.

Two alumni of the Rock Creek speech program have been extremely helpful to the team this year. *Emma Cott*, older sister of *Sam*, has helped with judging and sponsoring on trips. Assistant Coach *Phil Baker*, older brother of *Regan*, has been instrumental in helping develop the students' performances, "Having these two around to help has meant a lot to me, and to the students. *Emma* and *Phil* helped make Rock Creek successful in speech, and they want that to continue," said Coach Miller.

Reading Strategies

The Reading Strategies class made books for 1st and 2nd graders. The students wrote their own stories and made covers for the books. The class presented their books to the 1st and 2nd graders at Westmoreland and St. George elementary schools. The junior high students enjoy reading to the younger students. Some of our junior high students still have their books they received when they were 1st and 2nd graders. Reading Strategies students made over 100 books for the younger students.

Rock Creek FFA Barnyard Day

Rock Creek FFA hosted Barnyard Day on May 15 at 9 a.m. for grades 3-4 students at Westmoreland and St. George. May 27-30 is the Kansas State FFA Convention which will be held in Manhattan, Kansas.

Counselor's Corner

by Kevin Sullivan

Congratulations to *Devin Nelson* who has been selected to attend the annual Cadet Law Enforcement Academy in Salina, Kansas, from June 1-6, 2008. Sponsored by the Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas American Legion, and the American Legion Auxiliary, the program is intended to help young men and women gain insight into the training and responsibilities of law enforcement officers.

Congratulations also to *Morgan Eichman* who will be representing Rock Creek High School at the 66th annual Sunflower Girls State Program at the University of Kansas from June 1-6, 2008. The program provides junior girls from across the state an opportunity to expand their understanding of democracy, citizenship, and the American government system, in general.

Students considering the ACT exam on June 14, 2008, are reminded about the May 23 late registration deadline. On-line registration is available at www.actstudent.org.

Female students between the ages of 14 and 18 as of February 1, 2009, may be interested in participating in the Miss Kansas Teen USA Pageant at the University of Kansas campus in Lawrence, Kansas, on December 19-21, 2008. Contestants are judged according to personality, physical fitness, and poise. Various scholarships are available; see me for more information and applications. The registration deadline is June 15, 2008.

2008 Scholarship and Award Recipients

Travis Altenhofen: Kansas State University Activity Scholarship, Kansas State University Wildcat Flight Scholarship, Blue Valley Tele-Communications Scholarship, Frankie B. Sumners BPA Scholarship, Westmoreland High School Alumni Scholarship, Raymond Scritchfield Memorial Scholarship

Regan Baker: Brigham Young University Academic Scholarship, Wamego Tele-Communications Scholarship, Rock Creek Booster Club Scholarship, Rock Creek Starz Scholarship, 2008 Academic All-State Team (Honorable Mention), Governor's Scholar, Kansas State Scholar, Kansas Honor Scholar, Kansas ACT Scholar

Taylor Blackwood: Cloud County Community College Leadership Scholarship, Cloud County Community College Presidential Scholarship, Cloud County Community College Great Society Scholarship, Brill Westmoreland Scholarship, Rock Creek Booster Club Scholarship, Wayne Dunafon Memorial Scholarship, Troy Ebert Memorial Scholarship, American Legion Post 260 Scholarship, Downtown Dental Group Healthcare Scholarship, Kansas Honor Scholar

Brianne Campbell: Allen County Community College Softball Scholarship, Westmoreland High School Alumni Scholarship, Rock Creek Booster Club Scholarship

Chyann Ebert: Kansas State University Achievement Scholarship, James Schooler Memorial Scholarship, Dick Edwards Ford FFA Scholarship, FFA Alumni Scholarship, Eugene Plummer Memorial Scholarship, Brill Westmoreland Scholarship, Troy Ebert Memorial Scholarship, Kenneth "Pete" Ebert Scholarship

Derek Fike: Kansas State University Leadership Scholarship, Kansas State University Engineering Scholarship, Brill Westmoreland Scholarship, Rock Creek Student Council Scholarship, Kansas State Scholar, Kansas Honor Scholar,

Jordan Frank: Kansas State University Leadership Scholarship, Kansas State University Agriculture Enhancement Scholarship, Kansas State Scholar

Colby Helget: Kansas State University Leadership Scholarship, Kansas State Scholar

Dylan Havenstein: Kansas Vocational Education Scholarship

Brad Heideman: Kansas Vocational Education Scholarship

Mindy Hodges: Kansas State University Leadership Scholarship, Gus Hildebrand Memorial Scholarship, Westmoreland High School Alumni Scholarship, Rock Creek Booster Club Scholarship, Mike Vaughan Memorial Scholarship, Rock Creek Starz Scholarship, Kansas State Scholar, Kansas Honor Scholar

Kayla Keys: Kansas State University Activity Scholarship, Rock Creek Student Council Scholarship, Kansas Vocational Education Scholarship

Alex Kinderknecht: Emcor Group Inc. Scholarship, Kansas Vocational Education Scholarship

Jaron McAdams: Kansas Vocational Education Scholarship

Kayle Jo McNally-Knoblauch: Raymond Scritchfield Wrestling Scholarship, Rock Creek Booster Club Scholarship

Andrew Meyer: Hutchinson Community College Football Scholarship

Matthew Moore: Kansas Vocational Education Scholarship

April Norton: Fort Hays State University Black & Gold Scholarship, Fort Hays State University Achievement Scholarship, Fort Hays State University Academic Excellence Scholarship, Rock Creek Booster Club Scholarship

Audrey Peterson: University of Kansas Achievement Scholarship, Westmoreland High School Alumni Scholarship, Bluestem Electric Cooperative Scholarship, Yamaha MotorSports Scholarship, Kansas State Scholar, Kansas Honor Scholar

Kaitlyn Phillips: Cloud County Community College ACT Scholarship, Cloud County Community College Great Society Scholarship, Kansas State Scholar

Winter Portelli: Raymond Scritchfield Memorial Scholarship, James Calvin Magnett Memorial Scholarship

Kolbi Redding: Rock Creek Booster Club Scholarship, FCCLA Scholarship, Tindall Orthodontic Scholarship, Blue Valley Tele-Communications Scholarship

Rusty Renner: Hutchinson Community College Presidential Leadership Scholarship, FFA Alumni Scholarship, Eugene Plummer Memorial Scholarship, ECOS Scholarship, Express Employment Professionals Scholarship, Kansas Vocational Education Scholarship

Felicia Sawdy: Cloud County Community College Thunderbird Scholarship

Sara Slocum: RCHS Art Department Scholarship

Colter Suther: Kansas Vocational Education Scholarship

Kylie Umscheid: RCEA "Future Teacher" Scholarship

WHAT THE ROCK IS COOKIN'

FFA Northeast District

Monica Ebert

Vice President

Pake Ebert

Treasurer

Rock Creek Chapter

National Chapter Recognition

Music in the Parks at Worlds of Fun

Rock Creek Choir

3rd place

State Band & Choir Results

Choir

Justin Fronce, I Rating

Women's Ensemble, II Rating

Kait Phillips, II Rating

Derek Saueressig, II Rating

Kallie Siderewicz, III Rating

Brian Sixbury, III Rating

Band

Flute Ensemble, I Rating

Saxophone Ensemble, I Rating

Low Brass Ensemble, I Rating

Jordan Frank, Trap Set Solo, I Rating

Jana Havens, Flute Solo, I Rating

Sam Cott, Tenor Sax Solo, I Rating

Percussion Ensemble, II Rating

Clarinet Ensemble, II Rating

Brenda Stevenson, Clarinet Solo, II Rating

2008 State of Kansas Scholarship Contest

William Trieb

Honorable Mention State Award in Algebra II

Softball – 10-0 MEL Champions

Baseball – MEL Champions

CAUGHT YA! CARDS

<i>Lynette Bellinder</i>	<i>Dylan Havenstein</i>	<i>Chelsie Parker</i>
<i>Brittany Chasser</i>	<i>Brad Heideman</i>	<i>Blaine Ridder</i>
<i>Nick Cooper</i>	<i>Travis Heideman</i>	<i>Calvin Riney</i>
<i>Morgan Eichman</i>	<i>Colby Helget</i>	<i>Sara Slocum</i>
<i>Charlie Frazier</i>	<i>Adam Krause</i>	<i>Colter Suther</i>
<i>Justin Fronce</i>	<i>Logan Lauer</i>	<i>Wes Thierolf</i>
<i>Chanlehr George</i>	<i>Adara Leonard</i>	<i>Josh Unruh</i>
<i>Luke Goodenow</i>	<i>Paige Miller</i>	<i>CJ Walsh</i>
<i>Dianna Harrold</i>	<i>TJ Minihan</i>	<i>JT Weers</i>
<i>Jana Havens</i>	<i>Patrick O' Connor</i>	<i>Katie Zimmerman</i>

Rock Creek Invitational Track Meet

JV Girls - 1st Place

Varsity Girls - 2nd Place

JV Boys - 2nd Place

Varsity Boys - 3rd Place

Mid-East League Track

Girls Team – 5th Place

Discus: Ashley Garetson, League Champion;

Chyann Ebert, 3rd; Kortney Campbell, 6th

High Jump: Courtney Stillwagon, 6th

Pole Vault: Emily Zoeller, 6th

Long Jump: Courtney Stillwagon, 2nd;

Emily Zoeller, 4th

Triple Jump: Chelsea Renner, 2nd; Emily Zoeller, 3rd;

Monica Ebert, 6th

Shot Put: Ashley Garetson, 3rd

100M: Torrey Peterson, 5th

200M: Chyann Ebert, 5th

400M: Ashley Altenhofen, 4th

3200M: Chelsea Ebert, 5th

100 Hurdles: Rachel Lewman, 4th

4x100 Relay: Chyann Ebert, Courtney Stillwagon,

Becky Lightfoot, Torrey Peterson, 4th

4x400 Relay: Courtney Stillwagon, Becky Lightfoot,

Emily Zoeller, Monica Ebert, 4th

4x800 Relay: Becky Lightfoot, Monica Ebert,

Kortney Campbell, Melanie Stubbs, 4th

Boys Team – 3rd Place

Discus: Andrew Meyer, 2nd; Nick Cooper, 5th

High Jump: Tyler Umscheid, League Champion;

Adam Kibodeaux, 5th

Pole Vault: Tyler Umscheid, League Champion;

Nolan Fike, 5th

Long Jump: Jarrid Lauer, 3rd; Dustin Miner, 4th

Triple Jump: Dustin Miner, 2nd; Jarrid Lauer, 4th;

D. J. Denzien, 5th

Shot Put: Andrew Meyer, 5th

Javelin: Chris Wahl, 2nd; Andrew Wahlmeier, 3rd

200M: Jake Newkirk, 6th

100 Hurdles: Brian Sixbury, 2nd; Pake Ebert, 5th

300 Hurdles: Brian Sixbury, League Champion;

Nelson Kawano, 6th

4x100 Relay: Tyler Umscheid, Jarrid Lauer,

Andrew Wahlmeier, Colton Smith, 2nd

4x400 Relay: Michael Wilson, Nelson Kawano,

Jake Newkirk, D. J. Denzien, 4th

4x800 Relay: Michael Wilson, Jacob Haverkamp,

Nelson Kawano, D. J. Denzien, 4th

3A Regional Track State Qualifiers

Girls

Javelin: Chris Wahl

High Jump: Adam Kibodeaux, Tyler Umscheid

Pole Vault: Tyler Umscheid

Triple Jump: Dustin Miner

100 Hurdles: Brian Sixbury

Boys

Long Jump: Courtney Stillwagon, Regional
Champion; Emily Zoeller

Triple Jump: Emily Zoeller, Chelsea Renner

Shot Put: Ashley Garetson

Discus: Ashley Garetson

200M: Chyann Ebert

WAMEGO MUSIC FESTIVAL JUNIOR HIGH BAND

II Ratings

Sara Nider, Trap Set Solo

Jimmie Goodmiller, Snare Solo

Cody Liming, Trap Set Solo

St. George Percussion Trio

Percussion Ensemble

Shaunee Hulbert, Flute Solo

Jacob Miller, Trombone Solo

Shane Schaake, Trumpet Solo

Logan Miner, Trumpet Solo

Dylan Meyer, Trumpet Solo

Trumpet Ensemble

Lizz Herra, Alto Sax Solo

Lane Frazier, Clarinet Solo

I Rating

Junior High Band (11 straight years)

Karl Thompson, Tuba Solo

Samantha Reves, Clarinet Solo

Trevor Sotelo, Timpani Solo

Josh Roberts, Snare Drum Solo

Jackson Meyer, Trumpet Solo

Ashley McDaris, Flute Solo

St. George Bone/Sax Trio

Jessi Snapp, Flute Solo

Clarinet Ensemble

Katherine Culbertson, Flute Solo

St. George Clarinet Trio

Katie Hodges, Flute Solo

Lauren Leupold, Flute Solo

Low Brass Ensemble

Rachel Frank, Flute Solo

Shannon Oakley, Flute Solo

Flute Ensemble

Zac Saueressig, Trombone Solo

Dylon Dunaway, Trumpet Solo

St. George Trumpet Trio

Derek Dunaway, Trumpet Solo

Caitliné Christenson, Tenor Sax Solo

Anna Jilka, Alto Sax Solo

Sax Quartet

Aaron Kuecker, Clarinet Solo

Niallen O'Brien, Clarinet Solo

Susie Willi, Bass Clarinet Solo

Tiffany Stewart, Clarinet Solo

**Briggs/WIBW
Coach of the Year
Finalist
Coach Oberkrom**

May StuCo Parking Spot

Adam Krause