



Mustang Express

Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School

September 2009

Principal 9-12:

Dennis Post

Assistant Principal 7-8:

Scott Harshbarger

USD 323

Superintendent:

Dr. Darrel Stufflebeam

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Rock Creek Hosts Three Foreign Exchange Students

While there are many different cultures, countries and languages in the world today, we are still able to come together and create friendships. Last school year, *JeeJee Yoon* was the only foreign exchange student at Rock Creek; this year The Rock has three.

Simon Johansson, *Hea Yoon Lee*, and *Alejandra Testa Pison* are from Korea, Sweden, and Argentina, respectively. The students are here for one year for school and to see the country.

Simon Johansson is with the AFS exchange program and is staying with the Eshelmans. *Simon* really likes music and soccer; he's playing on an American team while he's here. He's from Piteå, Sweden. One of the biggest differences between the countries is food. In Sweden, their lunches are free, one hour long, and all you can eat. The food is also much sweeter here. *Simon's* favorite part of America is how friendly everyone is and easy to talk to.

Hea Yoon Lee traveled here through the Eurovacances-Aspect Foundation exchange program and is staying with the Thompson family. She was born in Seoul, Korea, but then moved to Mainz, Germany. *Hea Yoon's* favorite part about America is that stores are open on Sundays and iPods are cheaper. She plans on getting an iPod while here. Another big plan for her is going to Disney World. The biggest differences being here, for her, are transportation, the driving age, and the school systems.

Alejandra Testa Pison is from Buenos Aires, Argentina, and is currently staying with the Brown family. She got involved in the program because her uncle was a foreign exchange student and she thought that it was interesting. So far she likes America but doesn't like the food. Her favorite part about America is how organized it is here.

All of the students would like to return even if it's just a visit in the future.



Rock Creek Receives National Honor

Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School has been named a Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. The award was announced at a news conference on September 15 by U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan. Rock Creek was one of five Kansas schools and the only Kansas secondary school to receive the award. The Blue Ribbon Award is considered the highest honor an American school can achieve.

Blue Ribbon Schools must be nominated by their state's education department for excellence in student achievement. Nominated schools can be public or private schools that are either academically superior, or have dramatically improved achievement among minority and disadvantaged students. Last year, Rock Creek was nominated by the Kansas Department of Education for high academic achievement and was the only Kansas secondary school nominated.

Principal Dennis Post and Title I teacher Jeremy Lehning will attend the Blue Ribbon Award ceremony in Washington, D.C. on November 3, 2009. They will be presented with a plaque and a blue flag which will fly on the school's flag pole in recognition of Rock Creek as one of the top schools in the nation. A ceremony for the flag-raising will take place at Rock Creek on November 6, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. Congratulations to the faculty, staff, and students of Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School for this amazing accomplishment!

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time
9/22	JHVB @ Ft Riley, 7 th grade HSVB vs St. Marys	3:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m.
9/23	FFA Fall CDE Day	9:00 a.m.
9/24	Senior Graduation Announcements HSVB Rock Creek Freshman Triangular	2:45 p.m. 5:00 p.m.
9/25	HSFB @ Riley County	7:00 p.m.
9/26	KSU Band Day HSVB @ Wamego Varsity Tournament HSVB @ Wabaunsee JV Tournament JH/HSCC @ Wabaunsee	TBD 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
9/28	JHVB @ Wamego w/Marysville HSFB vs Riley County JV	4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
9/29	JHVB @ Ft. Riley, 8 th grade JHVB Quad, 7 A&B HSVB @ Silver Lake	4:00 p.m. 4:45 p.m. 5:00 p.m.
10/1	HSCC @ Council Grove JHCC RC Invitational HSVB @ Riley County w/Herington and Council Grove JHVB vs Mill Creek Valley JHFB vs Mill Creek Valley	4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:45 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
10/2	RC Homecoming Parade in Westmoreland HSFB vs Rossville Homecoming Dance	2:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 9:30 p.m. - midnight
10/3	HSVB @ Jeff West JV Tournament RC Debate Tournament FFA Horse Evaluation	8:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.
10/5	HSFB @ Rossville JV NHS Induction Ceremony	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
10/6	HSVB vs Wabaunsee	5:00 p.m.
10/8	JHVB @ Eisenhower Triangular, 7 th grade JHVB @ Clay Center Triangular, 8 th grade JHFB @ Clay Center Varsity and JV	3:30 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m.
10/9	HSFB vs St Marys	7:00 p.m.
10/10	JHVB MEL @ Silver Lake HSVB Rock Creek JV Tournament HSVB @ Wabaunsee JV Quad JHCC @ Riley County HSCC @ Riley County	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:40 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
10/12	No School PK-12 Inservice HSFB @ St Marys JV	8:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
10/13	FFA Fall Area Meeting HSVB @ Rossville	4:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m.
10/14	PSAT Test FFA Dairy Evaluation Board of Education Meeting	TBD 9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
10/15	BPA Fall Delegate Assembly @ Lawrence HSCC MEL JHFB @ Riley County	TBD TBD 5:30 p.m.
10/16	RC Individual Picture Retakes HSFB @ Royal Valley	8:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
10/17	Junior Cheer Clinic HSVB @ Hillsboro Tournament	8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.
10/19	HSFB vs Royal Valley Freshman HSFB vs Royal Valley JV	4:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
10/20	HSVB vs Riley County	5:00 p.m.
10/22	HSFB @ Wamego Freshman/Sophomore	6:00 p.m.
10/23	HSFB vs Wamego, Parent Night Junior Cheer Perform	7:00 pm 7:00 pm
10/24	HSCC Regionals HSVB Substate ACT Testing	TBD TBD 8:00 a.m.
10/26	JH/HS Fall Choir Concert	7:30 p.m.
10/27	JHGB vs Riley County	4:30 p.m.
10/28	P/T Conference 7-12	4:00 p.m.
10/29	JHGB @ Eisenhower 7 th grade JHGB vs Eisenhower 8 th grade HSFB @Clay Center JH Renaissance Dance	3:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:30 - 10:00 p.m.
10/30	No School	
10/30-10/31	HSVB State @ Salina	TBD
10-31	HSCC State @ Wamego	TBD

Roberts Places Fifth at Nationals

On May 23 and 24 the Rock Creek Debate and Forensics Students competed in a national speech competition in Albany, New York. Nine students from Rock Creek participated, including *Torrey Peterson* and *Sam Cott* in Policy Debate, *Ben Peterson* and *Mandi Blenn* in Policy Debate, *Jeran Fry* and *Brenda Stevenson* in Lincoln/Douglas Debate, *Nolan Fike* and *Morgan Eichman* in Duo Interpretation (basically, duet acting), and *T.J. Roberts* in OIL (Oral Interpretation of Literature.)

While all the students did fairly well, one student stands out. T.J. Roberts became our first Rock Creek student ever to make the final round at the national tournament, bringing home 5th place. T.J. beat hundreds of students from across the country. His event, OIL, combines the two events T.J. won at the state tournament in Wichita; poetry and prose. In OIL, the students alternate between the two. Round one T.J. did poetry, round two he did prose, and so on. T.J. made it through eight rounds of competition to earn his trophy.

"The students were so excited for T.J. They were bouncing off the walls," said Coach Keith Miller. "It was a really fun trip. The students were wonderful to travel with. They were positive, helpful, and considerate. I couldn't ask for a better group of students. Plus, we learned so much from watching the other competitors, and we came home with over 40 titles of pieces to get for next year."

The tournament, known by the abbreviation CFL, for Catholic Forensics League, started in 1951. This year was the largest national tournament ever. Although it is run by Catholic Schools and is associated with the Catholic Church, one does not have to be Catholic to participate. Next year's national tournament will be held in Omaha, Nebraska.

Rock Creek High School Band Parents Meeting

A meeting for all Rock Creek High School Band parents will be held Wednesday, September 23 at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. It is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT that one parent or guardian per family be in attendance. Items of discussion will include all aspects of the upcoming band trip to Disney World, upcoming fundraisers, and the upcoming Topeka Symphony concert that the band will be hosting. It is very important parents be there.

Going for the Gold!

Rock Creek High School will soon be announcing this year's National Honor Society members. To join the organization, students of grade 10-12 must meet high grade standards and continue to maintain them. Students must also have demonstrated leadership, service, and good character.

After reviewing the candidates' applications, a panel of faculty will select the new members. This year's new members and their parents will be honored at an induction ceremony on October 5 at 7 p.m. National Honor Society's new sponsor is Donna Hawkins.

The local chapter of National Honor Society will also host a blood drive for the Red Cross in November, recognize the teaching staff during American Education Week, and may carol at the Westmoreland Care Home in December.

Counselor's Notes

Deadline:	Description:
	Students at least 16 years of age may enroll in a Certified Nurse Aide Course at the Westy Care Home. Classes are held on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings (and also one Saturday in November) from October 6, 2009 to November 19, 2009. The cost is \$425. Contact Sarah Eisenbarth, 457-2810 (Extension 606) for registration details.
	Grade 9-12 students planning to pursue careers as physicians may attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine . The 10-day summer sessions, which will be conducted in cities across the US, are dedicated to the early recognition and preparation of the nation's most promising future physicians. See Mr. Sullivan for more information and registration details.
10/1/09	Seniors with a minimum 3.0 GPA, who have participated in at least one school-sponsored sport, may compete in the 2009-10 Wendy's High School Heisman Awards competition. Register online at www.wendysheisman.com .
10/31/09	Seniors may apply for the 2009-10 Coca-Cola Scholarships ; 250 \$10,000 and \$20,000 awards will be presented to deserving students. Apply online at www.coca-colascholars.org
11/1/09	Juniors/Seniors may participate in the 2009 Masonic Lodge Scholarship Essay Contest . Eight scholarships ranging in value from \$500 - \$4,000 will be awarded to deserving Kansas students. See Mr. Sullivan for registration details.
11/2/09	Seniors may apply for the 2010 Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarships ; 500 four-year awards (ranging in value from \$4,000 – \$60,000) will be presented to deserving students nationwide. See Mr. Sullivan for more information and applications or visit www.elks.org/enf/scholars .
11/13/09	Seniors with a minimum 3.50 GPA and 24 ACT score, who are planning to pursue business studies at Wichita State University, may participate in the annual Barton School of Business Scholarship competition.
1/8/10	Seniors with a minimum 3.0 GPA and 24 ACT score, who are planning to attend Washburn University, may apply for the 2010-11 Leadership Scholarships . See Mr. Sullivan for applications.

Boys State of Kansas Leadership Academy

How can you have fun in the summer, test the waters of college life, and learn leadership skills for your future all in one week? Boys State is the answer. *Sam Cott* and *Nolan Fike* participated in this program during the summer of 2009. Qualifications for this program are that you must be a junior in high school, be in the upper half of your class, and be in extracurricular activities. Boys State is a great opportunity to learn leadership skills through a week-long role-play civic exercise. The organization has strengthened confidence, inspired leadership, and built bonds of friendship all in a safe and open environment. To learn more about Boys State Leadership Academy, go to www.ksbstate.org.

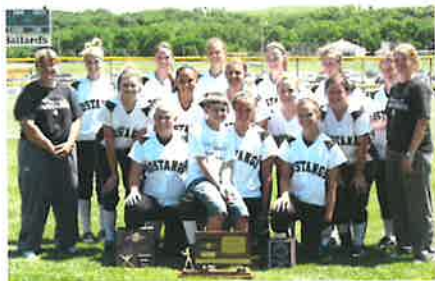
Sunflower Girls State

The purpose of Sunflower Girls State is to create a sense of responsibility to community, state, and nation. This program promotes leadership and pride in American citizenship. It educates delegates about our system of government, instills a greater understanding of American traditions, and enlivens a desire to actively participate in our government process. Some qualities for eligibility are honesty and good character, outstanding qualities of leadership, and good physical and mental health. *Becca Snapp* participated in the Sunflower Girls State program at the University of Kansas in Lawrence during the summer break. For more information, go to www.ksgirlsstate.org.

National Youth Science Camp

The National Youth Science Camp is an intense science education program, located in West Virginia. The program immerses students in an environment rich with opportunity to explore new subjects, share knowledge and experience, and interact with a diverse community. Also, students can join in on the outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, mountain biking, climbing, caving, kayaking, and ultimate Frisbee. The National Youth Science Camp holds lectures, directed study, and seminars for the students to learn more. *Caleb Schmitz* had the opportunity to go last summer; he was the one of two Kansas youth to go. The National Youth Science Camp is an extraordinary educational program of national scope and recognition.

The Rock Spotlight



ROCK CREEK SOFTBALL **Rock Creek Team, 2nd in State** **Tournament**

Dana Elliott, All-League & 3A All-State
Amy Yenzler, All-League
Taylor Ebert, All-League &
3A All-State Honorable Mention
Bailey Elliott, All-League Honorable Mention

State Track 2008

Andrew Wahlmeier, State Champion, Javelin
Courtney Stillwagon, 2nd, High Jump; 11th, Long Jump
Adam Kibodeaux, 5th, High Jump; 11th, Triple Jump
Tyler Umscheid, 6th, High Jump
Dustin Miner, 7th, Triple Jump
Lizz Herts, 7th, Shot Put
Ashley Garetson, 8th, Discus; 10th, Shot Put
Brian Sixbury, 8th, 110M Hurdles



ALL-STATE BASEBALL

Matt Gee, 1st Team Outfielder and 3A Player of the Year
Luis Gonzalez, 1st Team Shortstop
Kegan Rawhouser, 2nd Team Pitcher
Dustin Miner, 2nd Team Designated Hitter

BPA National Leadership Conference
Software Engineering Team, 8th
(Brittany Chasser, Tim Herts, Greg Pushee)
Tim Herts, VB.NET Programming, 14th
Greg Pushee, C++ Programming, 18th

Wabaunsee Volleyball **Tournament**

Rock Creek Varsity, 1st Place

Wamego Cross Country

8th Grade Division
Ryan Schneider, 2nd
Josh Stevenson, 9th

7th Grade Division
Shilo Schaake, 3rd



KANSAS STATE FAIR

Shilo Schaake
Grand Champion Steer
Champion Junior Beef Showman
Shane Schaake
Reserved Champion Maine

MISSION VALLEY **CROSS COUNTRY**

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS, 2ND
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS, 3RD

ASHLEY ALTENHOFEN,
MEDAL WINNER
SETH RUDER,
MEDAL WINNER

Washburn Rural **Debate**

Sam Cott and
Torrey Peterson
4th Place

US Senate **Youth Program**

Mandi Blenn
Delegate
Nominee