



## All Teachers, Principals Encouraged to Take the KAN-TeLL Survey Online

Do teachers have reasonable class sizes that afford them time to meet the educational needs of students? Are teachers and principals provided with time to collaborate with their colleagues? How many hours each week do teachers spend on school related activities outside the regular school work day?

These are just a few of the questions contained in the Kansas Teaching, Learning & Leadership (KAN-TeLL) online survey. The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) is conducting the web-based survey to privately and anonymously seek out details from teachers, principals and school-based licensed educators on issues that impact how students learn. The survey takes less than 20 minutes to complete and includes questions on overall working conditions, time, decision-making, professional development and facilities and resources.

Each school principal should have received a packet of letters (one for each licensed staff member) with details about the online survey. The letters contain a personal security code, assigned by building. Staff may go online to take the survey using this personal security code, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Jan. 14 through Feb. 11. All staff are encouraged to complete the survey and let their voices be heard.

KAN-TeLL is a collaborative effort among the Kansas State Department of Education, the State Board of Education, United School Administrators of Kansas and Kansas NEA. The results will be used for school improvement planning, and to identify needed resources and professional development. The data will be used to advocate for resources to help students learn and to support educators working in Kansas public schools.

*Schools with a 40 percent response rate will receive a report of their results*

A working conditions data report will be available for the state of Kansas as a whole as well as to every participating school and district with a 40 percent response rate. It then will be made publicly available on the Kansas TeLL Web site. The results will be used to make data-driven decisions about school improvements. Plans call for local and regional meetings to discuss the results.

Questions? Call the toll-free Help Line, 866-575-8010, or e-mail to [kantellhelp@ksde.org](mailto:kantellhelp@ksde.org).

### Believe Campaign Kicks Off January 22

They're off and running! The kickoff for the Kansas City, Kansas School Foundation for Excellence (FFE) Believe Campaign is scheduled for 1:45 p.m. Tuesday, January 22 in the Wyandotte High School gymnasium. Attending the kickoff event will be members of the Kansas City Brigade arena football team. The Marching Bulldogs of Wyandotte High School will perform.

The Foundation's board wants to expand the scope of its mission by not only providing scholarships to graduating seniors, but also by helping to build programs, strengthen professional development, provide staff tuition reimbursements, aid in special projects, fund field trips and more. Thus, the new mission of the FFE (Continued on back)



### Numbers Games...

KCKPS' Annual Math Relays will be held Saturday, February 16 at Wyandotte High School. In preparation for the event, more than 200 students participated in F.L. Schlagle High School's first school-wide math relays on Tuesday, January 8. Shown here with Principal Doug Bolden are top winners (from left) Juanyea Lyday, sophomore; Anitra Johnson, sophomore; Chee Vang, junior; and Sasha Johnson, senior.

# Schlagle Choir Wins 'First Sunday Gospel Challenge'



They showed stage presence and originality, and now they have the grand prize.

The F.L. Schlagle High School Chamber Choir has been named the winner of the First Sunday Gospel Challenge contest sponsored by Columbia TriStar Marketing Group, Inc.

The competition attracted choirs from throughout the country to perform and compete against each other, vying for a \$10,000 cash prize. The competition was a marketing component created for Sony Pictures' new movie, **FIRST SUNDAY**.

**Darryl Ammons**, director of choral activities at Schlagle, said he received news of the choir's grand prize win on Friday, Jan. 11.

The First Sunday national competition consisted of two phases. Phase I, which took place in mid December, drew participants to a local competition within their city, where they performed a three-minute version of "O Holy Night," "Joy to the World," or "O Come All Ye Faithful." The performances were videotaped

and the choirs were scored based on their singing ability, stage presence and originality. Top scorers in each city went on to the second phase of the competition, which consisted of posting their performance online where people nationwide could listen and vote.

After receiving perfect scores in Phase I, the Schlagle Choir competed online against 12 choirs based in major cities across the U.S. including Dallas, Chicago and Miami. Voting took place Jan. 4-10, and students, staff and their families worked to spread the word to community members, encouraging them to vote. And it worked; they received the top number of votes.

"It is so gratifying to know that the community was so supportive of our efforts," Ammons said.

Ammons said he is fortunate to live in a community that supports the arts and education. And that's why he and the choir want to give back. They are donating their \$10,000 grand prize to the KCK School Foundation for Excellence.

## Believe Campaign

(Continued from front)  
is to provide support to further the educational experiences of staff as well as students.

In addition to the average of 12 scholarships given each year to graduating seniors, funded primarily by the Foundation's annual golf tournament, FFE will support students and staff by awarding enrichment grants to fund creative and inspiring projects that are not funded with district monies. Potential projects to be funded include special events, field trips, technology and musical instruments. Also available will be teaching and learning grants that will provide resources for professional development opportunities for KCKPS staff.

In order to raise money to provide this support, the first KCKPS Believe Campaign will be held Jan. 22 through March 10. Pledge cards will be delivered to schools by

Jan. 22, and will be distributed to staff members.

Special events also have been planned by **Christal Watson**, community foundation specialist, and **Keith Jones**, marketing specialist, who serve as Foundation staff.

- "Bring Your Pledge Card Day" will be held on Feb. 1. The school with the most staff pledge cards returned by that date will receive a catered lunch or breakfast.
- "I Believe in College Day" will be held Feb. 11. Staff who donate \$1 may wear their favorite college or university apparel.
- "Bring Your Pledge Card Day" for parents is February 27 on Family Advocacy Day. Parents who bring signed pledge cards to their conferences will receive a free "Believe" t-shirt.
- "Friends and Family

Day" with the Brigade, where the Wyandotte High School Marching Band will perform at halftime, is March 24 at the Sprint Center. While the event will be held after the completion of the campaign, a portion of ticket sales will be donated to the FFE.

The FFE is offering incentives to individual buildings. The building which raises the most money will receive a \$1,000 Foundation Award or a plasma TV for their school lounge.

By participating in the campaign, staff members will have their names entered into a weekly raffle to win prizes. Some of the prizes available include two Kansas City Brigade tickets, two Kansas Speedway NASCAR tickets, an Apple iPod, an iPhone, and dinner for two at the Cheesecake Factory.

## APPLAUSE!

...to **Gloria Hull**, a paraprofessional providing services to students with autism at the middle school level in Kansas City, Kansas.

"She brings her soul to the classroom everyday, and is relentless in her goal to meet the needs of her students," the nomination stated.

"There are three words that come to mind whenever Gloria Hull is teaching: Commitment, Compassion, and Order."

Hull works to deliver individualized education to her students everyday. She "follows schedules, uses lesson plans, and is conscious of content language and objectives to make certain the students are not only busy, but also receiving a quality education."

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Do you know someone who deserves "applause?" Send your nominations to **Tammy Dodderidge**, in the Communications Office, [tadodde@kckps.org](mailto:tadodde@kckps.org).



## STAFF NOTEBOOK

is a weekly publication for employees of the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools. Submissions are welcome and should be directed to:

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