



SEAMAN

communicator

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SEAMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Area Dates & Events

FEBRUARY

- 12 **NO SCHOOL - Parent-Teacher Conferences**
- 15 **NO SCHOOL - Professional Learning**
- 15 EL Site Council/PTO 6:30 pm
- 15 WI PTO 7:00 pm
- 16 SMS Basketball @ 3:30 p.m.
- 16 SHS Basketball @ 4:30 **Chili Feed**
- 16 PH Site Council/PTO 6:00 pm
- 19 SHS Basketball v H. Park 4:30 p.m.
- 18 Wellness Night 6:30 p.m.
- 23 PH & RO Site Council 5:30 p.m.
- 23 SMS Band Concert 7:00 p.m.
- 25 SEAF Banquet 6:00 p.m. @ SMS
- 26 SHS B-ball v Manhattan 4:30 p.m. **Senior Night**

MARCH

- 1 NF PTO 5:30 p.m.
- 1 RO PTO 6:30 p.m.
- 8 SHS Spring Choral Concert 7:00 p.m.
- 10 SMS/SHS Orchestra Concert 7:00 p.m.
- 11 **NO SCHOOL - Professional Learning**
- 14 EL PTO 7 p.m.
- 14 School Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- 14 **NO SCHOOL - Spring Break**
- 15 **NO SCHOOL - Spring Break**
- 16 **NO SCHOOL - Spring Break**
- 17 **NO SCHOOL - Spring Break**
- 18 **NO SCHOOL - Spring Break**

Please check the online calendar for current info and locations. www.seamanschools.org/calendar

Ron Vinduska
retiring after 41
years at
Seaman High School



pg. 4



pg. 3

Mike Monaghan
becomes new
principal for
SHS in Aug.



pg. 7



pg. 3

Mrs. Martin & Mrs. Schrader named
Seaman's Teachers of the Year

How did you celebrate Penguin
Awareness Day?



Mike Mathes, Ed. S. Superintendent

Note from the Superintendent

“For over a half century this district has seen unprecedented length of service by its employees and administration.”

In this edition of the *Communicator* you will find an article about the retirement of longtime employee and Principal, Ron Vinduska. With he and I both retiring at the end of this school year, our district will have completed an unprecedented transition in leadership. Over the past five years we have seen a complete changeover of central office administration and building principals. Beginning next year, the longest central office administrator’s tenure will be Patty Carter, our Assistant Superintendent of Special Services at three years. For building principals, Dr. Aarion Gray will be the longest serving principal with five years experience.

What does this mean for the district? There will be a tremendous loss of historical perspective and institutional knowledge, like we have never seen before. For over a half century this district has seen unprecedented length of service by its employees and administration. Since 1965 there have been only four Seaman High School principals as well as only four USD 345 Superintendents.

Dr. Kent Hurn, the Superintendent who preceded me worked in the district for 30 years, 14 of those as Superintendent. Dr. Larry Bowser was with the district for 38 years ending his career as the Deputy Superintendent in 2000. Dr. Rob Balsters served the district for 38 years with 25 of those at the central office, first as Director of Business for Dr. Hurn, and then as Deputy Superintendent during my administration. Dr. Carolyn Orozco ended her 36 years with the district as the Assistant Superintendent, after serving as an assistant principal at Northern Hills Junior High and later principal at Seaman High School.

I can’t remember the number of times I have asked one of them about traditions or procedures they used, or why something was done a particular way. From Dr. Bowser’s doctoral dissertation that reviewed the 1973 Seaman teacher strike, the one and only in Kansas, to Dr. Hurn’s perspective on the closing of Capital View Elementary in 1983, or Dr. Balster’s in depth knowledge of the 1991 new school finance formula, and Dr. Orozco establishing the Homecoming Day parade in 1999. Their historical perspective and institutional knowledge is irreplaceable. It has helped guide me over my 23 years as an administrator in the district, first as an assistant principal at Seaman High, principal at Logan Junior High, assistant superintendent and the last 14 years as the Superintendent. Now, Mr. Vinduska with 41 years of

service to our district, 24 as an administrator, the last 14 as principal of Seaman High School, is retiring. FORTY-ONE years in the same building. That is simply incredible.

These people have not only been employees of the district, they are members of the community. None of these people retired and moved away. They all still live here and continue to contribute to the success of the Seaman community.

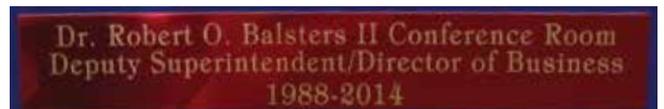
But with the changing of the guard, comes not only this historical knowledge loss, but also renewed passion, opportunities for new ideas, and new energy to see those ideas to completion. With deepest appreciation for those who preceded me, I leave this district in the capable hands of many new, young administrators, who are poised and ready to take this district to new heights and create their own history. To each of you, those before me, and those ready to take the reins, I say thank you and good luck. I will forever remain a Viking.

As always, thank you for your support of USD 345.

Superintendent Mike Mathes receives the 2016 KSSA Distinguished Service Award

The Kansas School Superintendents’ Association honored Superintendent Mike Mathes for his outstanding contributions to the organization and profession.

Longtime administrators honored for their service



Each year, Seaman Education Association selects two teachers from the district (one elementary, one secondary) to honor as the district's Teacher of the Year. Congratulations to both Melissa Martin (Pleasant Hill) and Maret Schrader (Seaman Freshman Center). Melissa and Maret will now be put into consideration for 2017 Kansas Teacher of the Year.



Mrs. Martin's students see the big picture.

My philosophy on teaching is that it is my job to assure that my students achieve their own success both academically and socially. I want students to understand and grow in all subjects, but also, understand and grow their character. I want them to learn empathy, patience and perseverance. I want them to understand that we are part of a bigger world--bigger than just our classroom or our school and that we have a responsibility to that world to learn and do and grow so that we can contribute to society in a positive way each and every day.

Mrs. Schrader stays relevant to her students.

Teaching is about so much more than standards. Once I really understood that students were people who had things going on outside of my classroom that affected their performance in my room, my approach to teaching changed. I now realize that my lessons have to be applicable to them...not me. As a teacher, you are educating the whole child, and that involves so much more than just the academics. A student's social and emotional health and education are just as important, and sometimes that responsibility falls onto the classroom teacher as it's not coming from anywhere else.

SHS HIRES NEW PRINCIPAL



Current Seaman High School Assistant Principal Mike Monaghan has been hired as the new principal at Seaman High School. Monaghan follows longtime Principal Ron Vinduska, who will retire at the end of the school year after 41 years with the high school, 14 of those years served as principal.

"I am humbled and honored to have been selected to serve as the next principal of Seaman High School. I feel blessed to have had the privilege of working here for the past two years and have learned a great deal about effective school leadership.

"This is a very exciting time to be a Seaman Viking. We have great students to work with who are buying into our vision, working hard, experiencing success in all areas of student life, and having some fun too! Our teachers and staff are passionate and work tenaciously to ensure that ALL students achieve their academic potential and become college and career ready. Our parents and community members value education and have great pride in our schools. Our central office folks and Board of Education are



student-centered and have done a fantastic job of providing us with the resources, technology, and support needed to accomplish our goals. The future looks very bright for Seaman students!" Monaghan said.

Monaghan has spent 26 years in education and began his career as a student teacher at Seaman High School. He then worked for 17 years as a business education instructor and associate principal at Lawrence Gardner High School, a former Seaman school located on the grounds of the Kansas Juvenile Corrections Complex. He also served as the Assistant Principal/Dean of Students at Hayden High School prior to returning to the Seaman School District in 2013. Monaghan earned his bachelor's degree from Washburn University in business education and a master's degree from Emporia State University in school leadership.

"Mike is only in his second year at the high school as assistant principal but he's already made an impressive mark as a dedicated, highly-involved and well-respected part of our community," said Superintendent Mike Mathes. "He'll be a visible, innovative, positive leader in our district and committed to our school's success."

Monaghan will assume his new position on August 1, 2016.

ONE MAN, ONE BUILDING, MANY LIVES

LONGTIME PRINCIPAL MR. VINDUSKA SET TO RETIRE

In 1975, Ron Vinduska came to work at Seaman High School as a social studies teacher. In 2016, he'll walk out of that same building as a retired and well-respected principal for one of the most reputable high schools in the state.

While to some, it may seem mundane to go to work in the same building for 41 years, Mr. Vinduska's time here was anything but. He's worked for the high school in many different capacities and played many different roles, from coach to principal, Mr. Vinduska has almost literally "done it all."

After graduating from Kansas State University, Mr.

Vinduska began teaching social studies at Seaman High School. He's helped coach football, basketball and track. Mr. Vinduska moved into an administrative position in 1991, as Athletic Director and four years later became Assistant Principal in charge of Curriculum Development. Then in 2002, Mr. Vinduska became Seaman High School's Principal and six years later was named Kansas Principal of the Year by the Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals.

In his last 14 years as high school principal, Mr. Vinduska's daily agenda many times, writes itself but

if you know where to look, he's not too hard to find. Mr. Vinduska arrives at the building early in the morning and stays until late in the night for school activities. And at lunchtime, you're most certain to find him sitting at a table in the middle of the cafeteria, enjoying the same chicken tenders as the students since he eats school lunch every day. "I'll miss the camaraderie the staff shares during our lunches but I'm past eating corn dogs and max

sticks... whatever a max stick is," said Mr. Vinduska when asked if he'll miss that midday tradition.

Superintendent Mike Mathes said, "Ron has been a true asset to the high school as well as the Seaman community. He has always shown a deep passion

for our students' future and kids know they can count on him. One of Ron's strengths I admire most is his prolific problem solving ability. Being a high school principal is not an easy job, it's a 24/7 job and I wish Ron a well-deserved retirement."

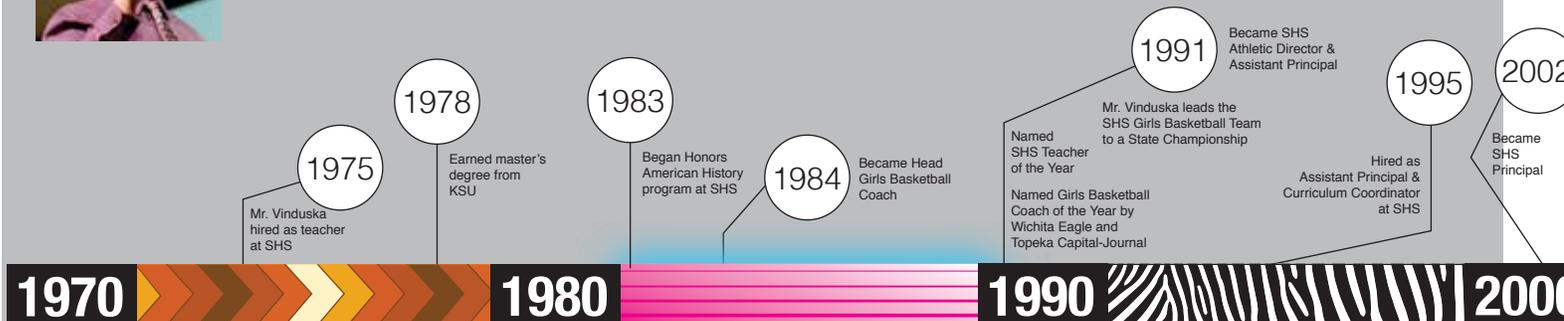
As principal, Mr. Vinduska interacts with students, teachers, parents, staff, administrators, community members, and college recruits... the list could go on and on. The relationships Mr. Vinduska has built during his time as principal has helped build a strong community of support and a foundation we can grow

Ron will be greatly missed by the faculty and staff at Seaman High School. He was an excellent teacher who made his students critically think and inspired many to go on to be educators themselves. As an administrator, Ron encourages his teachers to continually seek professional growth and then gives them the freedom to do their jobs as they are trained to do. In addition, he has a strong rapport with the students which is evidenced as a guest lecturer in government classes. I know I speak for a majority of the faculty when I say that we will miss his professionalism, quick wit, great, and sometimes warped sense of humor; and his top ten lists. Best wishes in retirement!

-Susan Sittenauer



41 Years at Seaman High School with Mr. Vinduska



Twenty-Five years ago Ron was instrumental in my hiring at Seaman High School. In fact, I replaced him in the social studies department when he became the athletic director. For me, Ron has been a mentor, an advocate, a leader, a colleague and a friend. Thanks to him I have had the privilege of working with outstanding students, and great teachers in a wonderful district. Ron has been a caring administrator who has always had the best interests of the school, the faculty, and students at heart. He will be greatly missed (his occasional K-State attire not so much). Enjoy the grandkids.

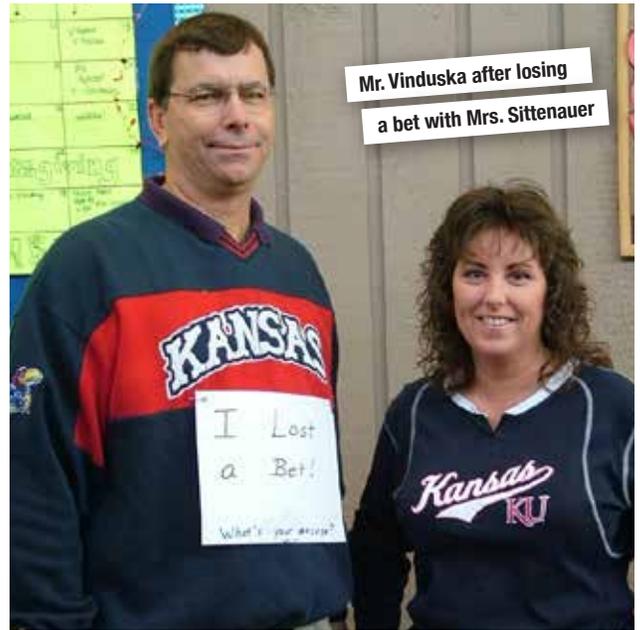
-Kevin Fries

for years to come and the relationships are what he'll miss the most. Mr. Vinduska said he'll miss the smiles and friendly greetings of students in the morning; conversations with kids in the hallway; the school activities including plays, musicals and sporting events; and he'll miss working with the best staff one could ever have.

When Mr. Vinduska reaches the end of this school year and passes the baton to Mr. Monaghan, he'll leave knowing the school is in good hands with a bright future awaiting. The two are working closely for a smooth transition.

Thank you, Mr. Vinduska, for your 41 years of dedicated and unflinching service to Seaman High School and the Seaman community.

Seaman High School will be recognizing Mr. Vinduska for his years of service at a reception (Date and time TBD) and will be open to the public.



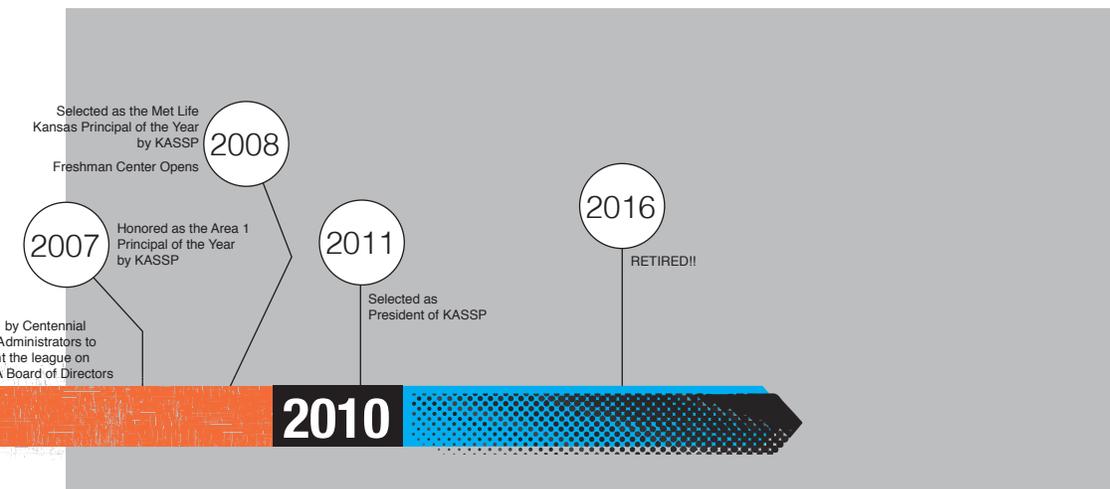
Mr. Vinduska after losing a bet with Mrs. Sittenauer



Mr. Vinduska at the SEAF golf tourney



Mr. Vinduska unknowingly speaking at a Nebraska podium



Living the Dream

Celebrating the Life & Legacy of
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Cassie Amrein, Artwork: Faith, Hope and Trust



James Perry, Artwork: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Grayson Seevers,
Artwork: Be the change you want to see in the world



Rosalie Schneider, Artwork: The Ring of Peace and Justice



Haley Woodyard, Artwork: Leaders

Congrats to the Seaman winners of the MLK Art, Essay, and Poetry Competition for 2016!

ART

Rosalie Schneider - Pleasant Hill Elementary
Amberly Sadler - Elmont Elementary
Kamryn Appelhanz - North Fairview Elementary
Cassie Amrein - Pleasant Hill Elementary
Grayson Seevers - Seaman High School
Haley Woodyard - Seaman High School
James Perry - Seaman High School
Some artwork not pictured.

ESSAY

Bailey Meggison - North Fairview Elementary
Austin Ralston - North Fairview Elementary
Cameron Smith - Seaman Middle School
Daniel Cluff - Seaman Middle School
Kyser Dougan - Seaman High School
Jacob Wildeman - Seaman High School
Adam Schultz - Seaman High School

POETRY

Molly Strobel - West Indianola Elementary School

What is FCCLA?

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America



FCCLA is a national student organization focusing on developing leadership, speaking, and writing skills all while becoming involved in our community. At Seaman High School, it's a group effort to better the lives of our neighbors.

Shortly after Winter Break, students settled into Mrs. Whitley's class for a late night lock to prepare for upcoming STAR competitions.

SHS FCCLA has 25 members and three of those members are involved in STAR events. STAR Events (Students Taking Action with Recognition) are competitive events in which members are recognized for proficiency and achievement in chapter and individual projects, leadership skills, and career preparation. Nikki Romig and Keith Nltcher are competing in the Senior Division-National Programs in Action category and Kylie Hawes is competing in the Jr. Division in Recycle and Redesign.

The National Programs in Action project is one in which Nikki and Keith are working to increase awareness of the fresh

food products available in our community and how easy and good these items are as opposed to convenience items. Students have given out pizza—made healthy at one of the wellness nights—and also fresh homemade salsa.

The second project—Recycle and Redesign—is a project where Kylie has taken donations of t-shirts to make simple bags and scarves. Kylie also made more durable versions to be donated to nursing homes.

FCCLA stays busy all year long with projects that positively impact our community. From food drives to toy donations, if there's a need, FCCLA is looking for a way to make a difference.

Good luck to our FCCLA STAR event participants as they prepare for competition and thank you to all members for your work in the community.

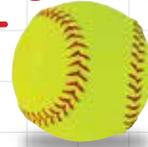
If you would like to support and/or work with this group, email FCCLA Sponsor Jennifer Whitley at jwhitley@usd345.com.



TOP 10

ACADEMIC TEAM

LADY VIKES
SOFTBALL



We would like to recognize the Lady Vikes Softball Team. The National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) released the **Top 10 Academic Teams** for the 2014-15 school year. The Lady Vikes Softball Team broke into the top 10 with a ranking of 8th nationally by finishing with a 3.824 Team GPA up from a 14th finish the previous year. The top ten finish is the first in program history. The team members are **Erin Boyd, Megan Carlson, Katlyn Frakes, Tayler Kramer, Chelsea Lake, Trinity Morris, Lesly Munoz, Rylee Neigenfind, Taylor Nickel, Sydney Polzar, Lexi Price, Hailey Reed, Payton Summers, and Marissa Willard**. Thirteen of the members were also recognized as Academic All-Americans by achieving a 3.5 or better GPA.



MRS. TUCKER'S SECOND GRADE CELEBRATES

PENGUIN AWARENESS DAY



**Remember that day we had class in an igloo?
Remember when our teacher dressed up like a penguin?**

Those are two memories Mrs. Tucker's class will be cherishing for many years. Mrs. Tucker, a second grade teacher at North Fairview and an avid penguin lover, came to work wearing a penguin suit and ready to share her love of penguins with her students for their celebration of Penguin Awareness Day on Jan 20. Kids spent the day learning all about penguins in the comfort of a DIY igloo.



In addition to the team honors, we would like to take the opportunity to recognize **Hailey Reed** with her awards from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA). Hailey was named to the 1st Team South Central Region Team. The region is made up of seven different states in the Mid-west. In addition, Hailey earned NFCA All-American Honors by being a member of the 3rd Team, which consists of the top 48 softball players in the country. Congratulations to Hailey and her family!



APRIL 25th IS WORLD PENGUIN DAY
and Mrs. Tucker will be ready.

The Seaman Communicator

Seaman Unified School District #345
Mike Mathes, Ed. S., Superintendent
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FEBRUARY
NO SCHOOL DAYS
12,15

MARCH
NO SCHOOL DAYS
11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 25

Sunrise Optimist
Baseball/Softball/T-ball online
registration opens mid-February
There will NOT be any forms sent
home with students this year.
sunriseoptimist.playerspace.com
[facebook.com/srosommerball](https://www.facebook.com/srosommerball)
Questions? 785-633-0669

**2016/17 School
Calendar Available!**



www.seamanschools.org/2016-17Calendar

NOW ENROLLING
Parents as Teachers
www.seamanschools.org/PAT

Upcoming PAT Events
Feb 10, 6 - 7:30 pm
Preschool Fair @ Washburn
Feb. 18, 6:30 pm
Wellness Night @ Logan
Feb. 19, 9:30 - 10:30 am
Playgroup @ Lyman
Mar. 8 10 - 10:30 am
Move & Groove @ Garfield
Mar. 12 10 - 10:30 am
Egg Hunt @ Lyman

**Get your Royals
Ticket Vouchers!**

Outfield Plaza Ticket: \$25
Hy-Vee View Ticket: \$15

**If Seaman Baseball meets
their sales goal they get to
play Shawnee Heights at the
K on April 16!**
email: sbushnell@usd345.com

The Seaman Communicator is published
monthly during the school year by

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Notice of Non-Discrimination

Seaman USD 345 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The Seaman USD 345 superintendent has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies and he may be reached by contacting Mike Mathes, Seaman Education Center, 901 NW Lyman Rd., Topeka, KS 66608 (785-575-8600).

Notice for a Drug Free Workplace

The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in Seaman USD 345. Violators will be prosecuted.