



## Grade school chats with Korean class

By Kevin Bottrell  
Colby Free Press  
kbottrell@nwkansas.com

Most days, Colby second graders don't have to use anything more complicated than a telephone to talk to fellow students, but Monday and Tuesday, the class reached out over the Internet to talk to second graders halfway around the world in South Korea.

At 8 a.m. Monday, Krista Alexander's second grade class sat in front of a computer in the Thomas County Academy and connected to the Korean grade school. Kids on both sides had microphones and web cams so they could see

and hear each other. Diana Wieland, curriculum director and academy principal, told the school board Monday that there was about a 10- to 20-second delay in the transmission. She said they estimated the difference between the two classrooms as about 1,400 miles.

Wieland said the Korean students were working on their English. They conversed with the Colby students about favorite colors and foods. The students got to ask each other questions about their schools, such as whether the Korean students have recess, which

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## Teachers, staff get to retire early

By Kevin Bottrell  
Colby Free Press  
kbottrell@nwkansas.com

Seven Colby teachers and staff members have taken advantage of an early retirement offer from the district but several are coming back to work next year.

On Monday, the Colby School Board approved early retirement requests for Norm Behring, grade school physical education; Tonjau Brown, food service; Joyce Mahin, district librarian; Gordon Rasmussen, high school math; Donna Roberts, high school art; Kyle Shively, middle school counselor; and Judy Shull, grade school reading.

Behring, Rasmussen, Roberts and Shively, however, are coming

back to work. Behring is returning as half-time, the rest are returning full time. The board approved rehiring them at the same meeting.

Business Manager Jo DeYoung said the board offered eligible faculty and staff \$150 per year of service plus \$5,000 for employees who have spent 10 to 14 years in the district, \$7,500 for those with 15 to 19 years and \$10,000 for those with more than 20. DeYoung said almost all of those who took advantage of the offer have been with the district for more than 20 years.

To be eligible, an employee had to have 85 points with the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System, she said. Teachers and

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KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

## Kids enjoy park as school finishes

Colby first grader Mikayla Torrance (above), her class and classes from Sacred Heart and Oakley Grade School (left) enjoyed one of the few sunny days this week at their class picnic Monday at Fike Park. Most of the Colby Grade School classes had scheduled their picnics this week and the fifth graders have a bowling party scheduled for Friday, the last day of school. The third, fourth and fifth graders had to cut their field day short Wednesday afternoon because of the rain, said secretary Cindy Moses. The first and second graders held their field day in the morning.



## Colby second grade shows off business projects at open house

By Andy Heintz  
Colby Free Press  
aheintz@nwkansas.com

Students in Colby Grade School teacher Brenda Rose's second-grade class this year got a chance to kick off their business careers a little earlier than most folks.

As a class project, the students were assigned to create their own business. Their creative minds came up with a plethora of ideas that they proudly displayed for their parents at the school's open house Tuesday.

Kylie Vogelgesang showed off her "elementary college farm." The farm products she proposed to sell featured items such as a pencil holder shaped like a horse's head, saddle soap and a horse shoe.

Makenzi Tongas' business centered around the police. Products she sold included a Halloween police uniform, fake guns, a fake stun gun and handcuffs.

Emilene Hutton's business stemmed from her love of dinosaurs. Her enterprise featured a dinosaur poster and dinosaur toys. She planned to make money by selling model dinosaurs and fossils people could put

together. Hutton said her favorite dinosaurs were the tyrannosaurus rex and the stegosaurus.

Decked out with a top hat and a cape, Elijah Shepherd, better known to his customers as renowned magician "Elijah the Great," sold bunnies, wands and magic sets. He also sold tickets to his magic show.

Other businesses the students created included "Kaity's Country Baby Sitting," owned by Kaity Nelson; Best and West, a plumbing business owned by Konnor Griffith; and Bella's Massage Therapist Salon, owned by Bella Cheney.

Nelson offered a combination of baby food and clothes for \$12 and Griffin's business sold products such as a tub for \$500 and a hot-water heater for \$1,000. Cheney's business centered around tanning and hair style. Cheney said she decided to start her salon business because that's what her mom does and she thought it looked "really fun." Lewis Haines' business, U.S.A. Attacks, sold military items such as scuba gear for \$210 and guns for \$100.

Rose said the project took about four weeks. She said the students first brainstormed ideas and came

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ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Elijah Shepherd, decked out in a homemade cape and top hat, stood at his desk displaying his plan for a magician business, "Elijah the Great," while his mom, Colleen Lopez, read a catalogue specifying all the products the business had to offer.

## Briefly

### High school teams selling supper

The Colby High School forensics and debate teams are selling tickets for their Celebrity Servers fund raiser Saturday at Montana Mike's. Tickets are \$15 for either a center-cut sirloin or grilled chicken dinner. Part of the ticket price and all tips will go to the teams for their trip to the National Championships on May 28. For information, call coach Nancy Rundel at 460-5300.

### Dance teams will wash your car

The Colby High School Dance Team will be washing cars to raise money for their dance camp from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday in the Dillon's parking lot. For information, call coach Denita Rogers at 460-1325.

### Team plans open house

The Colby High School forensics team will hold an open house and performance night Tuesday at

Pioneer Memorial Library beginning at 6:30 p.m. Team members will be performing selections from their season and answering questions about the program. Refreshments will be served. For information, call Nancy Rundel at 460-5300.

### Golf club plans couples event

A "one-couple" golf tournament - which has golfers in pairs rather than foursomes - to raise money for Meadow Lake Golf Club will begin at 10:30 a.m. Sunday at the course, 1085 E. Golf Club Drive in Colby. Registration will be at 10 a.m., with tee-off at 10:30. Cost is \$60 per couple. Cart rental is available, and lunch and snacks will be provided. Call the club at (785) 460-6443.

### Cemetery ready for cleanup

Sacred Heart Cemetery in Colby asks that people remove any decorations on the ground before Mon-

day so the cemetery can be cleaned for Memorial Day. For information, call Jeannie Solko at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 462-2179.

### Moran's staff plans office hours

Staffers from Congressman Jerry Moran's will hold open office hours from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Thomas County Courthouse on Tuesday. Chelsey Gillogly, a district representative for Mr. Moran, will be in the commissioners' room to meet with area residents. For information, call Gillogly or Rachel Robben at (785) 628-6401.

### Remember book sale at library

It's time again for Pioneer Memorial Library's Memorable Book Sale, Thursday to Saturday, May 27 to 29, starting at 9 a.m. and closing at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 4:45 p.m. Friday and 3:45 p.m. Saturday. For information, call the library at 460-4470.

### Flyers plan fun day, lunch at field

The Colby RC Flyers will hold their annual fun fly from dawn to dusk Saturday and Sunday, June 12 and 13, at the club's field seven miles north of Colby on K-25. For information, call Dave Backus at 460-6941 or Nick Nichols at 460-6357.

### Vacation Bible School starts soon

Trinity Lutheran Church's Vacation Bible School will be 9:15 a.m. to noon Tuesday, June 1, to Friday, June 4. The school is open to ages three (potty trained) through fifth grade. Parents can pre-register at any time or at the church the first day of the school. For information, call Trinity Lutheran at 462-3497.

