

# Top teacher speaks at school

## Educator encourages students to look at education as career

By KAYDEE LEITNER  
The Kansas Teacher of the Year, Brett Potts, was in Oberlin last week. He addressed the faculty during its monthly late-start inservice and then spoke to the student body for a few minutes before hitting the road again.

Mr. Potts teaches science at Blue Valley West High School in Johnson County. He has been teaching and coaching for 15 years.

His colleagues nominated him for Teacher of the Year, and because he said he didn't want to let his friends/coaches down, he filled out the extensive application.

As part of his responsibilities as Teacher of the Year, Mr. Potts has been traveling across the state speaking to schools and organizations.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt heard Mr. Potts speak at an administrators' convention and arranged for him to speak at Decatur Community High School.

When he spoke to the teachers, he gave them a few assignments, such as to write a letter to a significant teacher in their lives who inspired them to go into teaching and to keep a HABD file, which stands for "Having a Bad Day." He said that teachers should keep all the notes, letters, and pictures they receive from students in a file, and then pull

out that file when they are having a bad day.

He also asked the teachers to discuss different issues among themselves about why they went into teaching and what issues they are facing now.

He said that even though Johnson County may be the wealthiest district in the state, they are facing similar issues; they may have the money for nice buildings and technology, but not enough money for the general budget and teacher salaries.

"We are having to let teachers go in Johnson County too," he said.

Mr. Potts also talked about No Child Left Behind, and though he said most educators know that its goals are unattainable, a lot of good has come from the law, such as giving more attention to those students who score low.

The second half of his presentation to the faculty was called "Everything I Know about Teaching, I learned from a Coach." He explained his father was a coach and some of his best teachers were coaches. According to Mr. Potts, teaching and coaching have a lot in common.

"Mr. Potts' speech was very appropriate for this time of year," said Principal Charles Haag.

After the teacher in-service, Mr. Potts addressed the student body. In



**BRETT POTTS**, Kansas Teacher of the Year, addressed the student body about being a teacher. He encouraged the students to at least consider the profession. —Photo by Megan Barrett

his message, he encouraged students to think about going into the teaching profession. According to Mr. Potts, many teachers will be retiring in the next five years, and there will be a teacher shortage.

"Half of all teachers will be hired within the next 10 years," said Mr. Potts.

Mr. Potts explained that he played football at Pittsburgh State University and had no intention of being a teacher.

"My parents were both teachers, and I didn't want to go down that road," he said. "I started college as

a business major with dreams of making a lot of money."

He soon realized he didn't like his business classes, but he did like his biology class, so he eventually switched majors.

"I couldn't picture myself going to a job everyday that I didn't like, no matter how much money I was making," he said. "I have friends who make a lot more money than I do, but they aren't happy at their jobs, but me, I love my job."

He encouraged all students to consider the teaching profession.

"Don't rule it out," he said.



By the DCBS Dictator Staff

# Big kids enjoy Dr. Seuss Week

By M.J. DEMPEWOLF

It wasn't just the grade school students who enjoyed Dr. Seuss Week last week. Many high school students also got in on the fun.

High School students who were involved included members of the speech team, TACT, Kayettes, and the National Honor Society.

Members of National Honor Society wore wild hats to show the kids that reading is "Where It's Hat," the theme for the week. The honor students read to the first, second, and third graders, while a few other members read to the kindergarten and head start students.

"I really enjoyed getting to read and be with the younger kids," said senior Megan Barrett.

The TACT members read to the fourth, fifth, and sixth graders. They read "Oh the Places You'll Go" by Dr. Seuss. Then they talked with the students about what TACT means and what they do to promote a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

The Kayettes members also lis-



tened to the first, second, and third graders. A few other students read to the kindergartners and head start students.

"I enjoyed reading with the younger kids because it reminded me of when I started to read," said Sharee Dempewolf.

The speech members that helped the grade school students celebrate surpassing their goal of 1,000 hours of reading were Molly Coleman, Gabe Moore, Kelly Olson, and Kellen Doeden. The speech members read prose and poetry to the students.

The week helped to remind the high school students the importance of reading, and that reading is really "Where It's Hat."

# Junior high scholars meet in Oberlin bowl

By SCOTT MILLER

Decatur Community High School hosted a junior high scholar bowl meet last Tuesday. Teams from Oberlin, Hoxie, Norton, Golden Plains, Colby, Goodland, Atwood, Oakley and Cheylin competed.

The 7th grade team consisted of Jessica Fredrickson, Hunter Nedland, Mary Olson, Gatlin Reichert, Kira Meitl, Ashley Horton, and Adrienne Pauls. They were coached by Gannon Reichert. The team ended up with a 2-6 record.

The eighth grade team included

Haley Barrett, Chris Larson, Annamarie Larue, Farra McClesney, Alyssa Rippe and Nathan Simonsson.

"The meet was a good opportunity for the kids to compete," said Coach Marlene Moxter, who organized the meet.

Miss Moxter would like to thank all of the people that helped with the tournament. The junior high scholars end the season March 29 with the league meet at Quinter. There is also a computer bowl for senior and junior high scholars in April.



## THE SEVENTH GRADE

scholar team including (from left) Gatlin Reichert, Kira Meitl, Ashley Horton, Mary Olson and Brandi Diederich tried to figure out a math problem during the Oberlin Invitational Tournament last week.

—Photo by Bethany Weishapl

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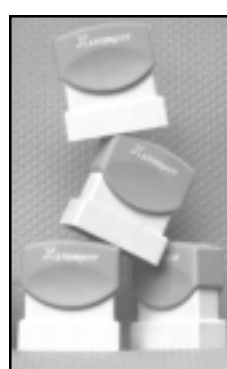
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