



# Superintendent's Newsletter

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Superintendent

## LET IT SNOW

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A few years ago, this writer lived next to a family that had a strong-willed kindergartener. She seldom hesitated to speak her mind, much to her parents' chagrin, and sometimes embarrassment. One day he chose to start schools at the regular time after five inches of snow fell the night before. He received a call at 7:00 a.m. from the enraged little lady. She said, "Paul, have you looked outside lately? We've got a lot of snow out there. You must be crazy not to call off school!" This little girl is likely not the only one to disagree with his school closing decisions.

Making choices on school opening or closing on questionable winter days is a perfect example of a no-win proposition. For some families closing schools causes a great inconvenience and additional day care cost. To other families, closing schools may be a relief, as they do not have to worry about getting their children to school in slippery driving conditions. Because any decision is likely viewed negatively by someone, it is made only after careful thought.

This thought process starts the day before as weather forecasts are reviewed and predictions are made on the next morning's conditions. At about 4:00 a.m. the transportation supervisor and the maintenance supervisor leave their homes to do an eyeball analysis of conditions. The bus head determines if the roads are suitable to pick up and deliver students from all the bus routes. The maintenance head similarly checks out the school buildings to determine if they can be cleared adequately before the start of school.

Once each supervisor makes his best estimate on the answer to these questions, they call the superintendent and discuss their findings with him. They also review temperatures to make sure they are not hazardous for students who wait at bus stops or who walk to school. Together they make a decision on the best course of action keeping these considerations in mind.

If both supervisors feel the answer is "yes" to the questions they are exploring, schools start at the normal time. However, if either thinks the answer is

"no", the school day is either canceled or the start delayed.

Should school cancellation or delay be chosen, the decision is posted on the district web page and a telephone message is sent to all families who are connected to the district calling system. All staff are also notified. Media outlets are contacted so they can make announcements on their stations. However, if the decision is to start school as normal, this is posted on the district web page.

In the final analysis, the school start decision is a judgment call. Fortunately, Klamath Falls' weather rarely warrants school closing, and our excellent maintenance staff usually is able to clear school entrances even in difficult conditions so that students can take full advantage of their learning opportunities.

This last point is extremely important. If students are not in school, they cannot learn. Thus, every school day is a valuable resource that should not be forfeited easily. This consideration, plus the fact that the superintendent is a native North Dakotan, means that

### WE'RE HIRING!

- RTI Teacher – Roosevelt
  - Parapro RTI - Conger
  - Bus Drivers
  - Teacher– Early Childhood Ed
  - Clerical – Conger
  - Head Girls' Soccer Coach – KUHS
  - Cafeteria Helper – Conger
  - Parapro - KBBH
- Click logo above to see all openings and descriptions.**

**Helpful Links**

[Bully Tip Link](#)  
[After School Program](#)  
[2015-16 Calendar](#)  
[KFCS Policy Manual](#)  
[Code of Conduct](#)  
[FamilyLink Portal](#)  
[School Lunch Menus](#)  
[Conger Elementary](#)  
[Mills Elementary](#)  
[Pelican Elementary](#)  
[Roosevelt Elementary](#)  
[Ponderosa Middle School](#)  
[Klamath Union High School](#)  
[Follow Dr. Hillyer's Twitter Feed](#)

Visit our website often for information & updates! If there is something you would like us to add, let us know so that we can take it under consideration!

### KLAMATH FALLS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Klamath Falls, OR 97603

Phone: (541) 883-4700

Dr. Paul Hillyer  
Superintendent

**School Board**

Lori Theros, Chairman  
 Bill Jennings, Vice Chairman  
 Trina Perez  
 Michael Moore  
 Mychal Amos  
 Jeremy Player  
 Donald Ambers

Board meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the boardroom of the district office. If you are unable to attend you may view the agenda & minutes of all the meetings by clicking [HERE](#)

**Important Dates**

Jan 18, 2016 No School  
 Jan 22, 2016 No School

**The end of the first semester is coming up on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Check on the progress of your students to assure they are passing.**

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schools will be closed only when absolutely necessary.

Sharing this information likely will not keep everyone happy with school closure decisions. Hopefully it does, however, help the reader understand the care that goes into making them.



January is a good time for you and your child to review his/her progress and set goals for the rest of the school year. So encourage your child to make some learning resolutions. Even better, help him/her learn how to achieve those goals.

When your child thinks about goals, help her/him choose one that can be reached fairly soon. Make it specific as well. For instance "Be smart in math" is just too broad. But, learn multiplication facts for numbers 4 and 5 is something that can be observed and measured. It helps if you and your child can follow these steps:

1. State the goal "My goal is to learn my multiplication facts for numbers 4 and 5 by January 30<sup>th</sup>. Then, that goal should be written down.
2. Make a plan how to meet the goal. "I will make flash cards and study them for 15 minutes each night. On Friday I will ask Mom or Dad to quiz me.

3. Talk about the goal with others. Your child should tell his/her teacher what he/she plans to do. This will help strengthen his/her commitment to the goal.

4. Follow each step in the plan. If problems arise, he/she can brainstorm solutions with you. For example, if he/she is too tired after homework time to review flash cards, perhaps they could be reviewed over breakfast, instead.

5. Motivate and celebrate. Encourage your child to take pride in each step he/she takes forward in their goal. Encourage him/her to say for example "I am proud that I studied my multiplication facts today, and I am going to do it tomorrow, too." When he/she achieves their goal celebrate that the efforts have paid off!



Congratulations to the KUHS Cross Country Varsity teams who placed in the Top Ten OSAA Academic All State Award.

The girls placed fifth in the 4A Oregon division with an overall GPA of 3.88

The boys team placed ninth in the 4A Oregon division

with an overall GPA of 3.55.

The district is very proud of these teams who demand the best of themselves both on and off the course.

## Cell Phone Safety

When you think about your children's online activities, do you consider their cell phones? They have evolved from simple communication devices to mobile, miniature computers. Smartphones allow users to download programs and apps to access e-mail, play games, etc. Additionally users can upload things to the internet such as photos and documents. Cell phones can be more difficult to monitor than a computer and kids often use them without adult supervision.

If your child has a phone or you are considering getting them one, be sure to review your family's internet safety rules. And, both you and they should understand the risks of cell phone usage and ownership.

Cell phone vulnerabilities include:

- Cyberbullying
- Predators
- Sexting
- Sharing of Geolocation Data
- And much more!

Besides talking to your children about cell phone safety you can also be proactive in monitoring

## In the Spotlight

### KFCS Board

The Klamath Falls City Schools join the other 196 school districts throughout Oregon to celebrate January as "School Board Recognition Month." Our school board members dedicate countless hours of unpaid time working to provide the best possible education for our students. They also serve as the corporate board of directors for one of our community's largest employers. Celebrating this month is one way to say thanks for all they do. Board members represent their fellow citizens' views and priorities in the complex enterprise of maintaining and running the community's public schools. They also reinforce the principle of local control over public education, which is an important, highly valued aspect of education in Oregon. Even though we are making a special effort during January to show appreciation for our school board members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-round effort on their part. They are dedicated individuals who are committed to improving student achievement and to fighting for the best of all our students.

Lori Theros – 21 Years  
Bill Jennings – 6 Years  
Trina Perez – 6 Years  
Mike Moore – 2 Years  
Mychal Amos – 1 Year  
Don Ambers - 6 Months  
Jeremy Player - 6 Months

### Oregon School Board Association News

Congratulations to KFCS board chairman, Lori Theros who was among forty-six school board members across Oregon to receive leadership awards. These awards recognize the hard work and dedication of school board members who already invest an enormous amount of time on behalf of Oregon's children. Lori achieved a gold award for completing the third level of courses in the Leadership Institute. Additionally, Lori was elected in December to serve another term as a director on the OSBA board.



### Early Years

In this month's edition of [Early Years](#) you will find some very good articles on teaching children to follow directions; teasing; how to boost thinking, improving eating habits, and a fun activity that involves pictograms! Take a few minutes to read it and then use the information to help make parenting a bit easier.

Check out our newest [KU Update](#) video



## ABC's Of Student Success

*Published with permission from Education world*

**F** is for FAILURE.

Did you know that Abraham Lincoln weathered many failures before he became president? When a child experiences failure -- on a test, the ballfield, or anywhere else...

- acknowledge the child's feelings of frustration and disappointment. Those are natural feelings.
- don't try to minimize the situation because it *does* matter to your child.
- Help your child evaluate the cause for failure and use what he or she has learned to create a new strategy and try, try again!

**G** is for GRACE.

Grace means giving children what they need, not what they deserve. It means accepting kids as they are, and understanding their feelings and obstacles. It also means that we provide the unconditional support our children need to make positive changes. Grace, however, must be balanced with accountability or we risk enabling children to excuse unacceptable behavior or failure to achieve reasonable goals. If we balance grace with accountability, we let children know that we expect them to

**H** is for HOMEWORK.

Homework provides practice, and it enables parents to know when a child is having difficulty with schoolwork. Parents can support a school's homework policy by...

- providing a "homework area" that is well lit and free of distractions.
- setting a daily "homework time." Some parents call it "schoolwork time" so kids know the "I have no homework" excuse won't work.
- offering a snack or play break before homework; or using it as a homework-completion incentive.

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their cell phones. Currently, there are a number of apps available, that allow you to monitor your child's cell phone activity. From monitoring texts, phone calls (who and how long), photo monitoring, GPS location tracking, contact lists, etc. you can be an integral partner in helping your children remain safe while still enjoying their cell phones.

Here is a list of apps for you to review and to consider for use by your family. They provide protection for your kids and peace of mind for you.

#### Free Apps

WebSafety  
Kids Place  
Parental Control Board

#### Subscription or Fee Apps

MMGuardian  
Mobile Watchdog  
Phone Sheriff  
Net Nanny  
Tipsy  
Teen Safe

### IT'S ALL ABOUT THAT APP

The district now has a mobile app that will help you keep up with the newest information as it is released. Announcements, calendars, school info, etc. To get the app for your iPhone, iPad or Android simply click one of them below.

[iOS Mobile App](#)  
[Android Mobile App](#)

