

# THE SPECIAL EDITION

*MAY 2023*

Hello Coop Family~

Happy May Day to you! How is it possible that May is here? As we bring the 2022/23 school year to a close it is with much appreciation for all you do to make the learning journey of our students one that instills a positive impact that lasts a lifetime.

Thank you to all who have jumped in and completed the new checklist. Please bring your feedback when I meet with you during our in-person check out meeting. Your input is important to me and we will consider all input as we continue to streamline the checklist. As you know, we are working through continuous monitoring and I have just received the additional 30 IEPs that will be reviewed as the second part of our KSDE compliance review. I know together as a strong team we can and will continue to improve our percentage of compliant IEPs that are submitted to the Coop.

Here's wishing you a strong finish to the year. It's been another one for the books as we continue to move through the most challenging times our profession has endured. Our collective support and encouragement for each other through these tough times helps us continue to persevere. Please reach out to us to let us know how we can support you! Remember, the only bad question is the unasked question.

Hang on tight! Summer is just around the corner. I hope you enjoy your time to refresh and relax doing what you love best! I am excited to see you soon to sit down one-on-one and reflect on your year.

Cheers for the End of the Year!

~ Deb

**TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK**

**MAY 8-12, 2023**



**HAPPY TEACHER  
APPRECIATION WEEK!!**

The world is a better place for our students because you are in their life. It's not just during this week we salute you for all you do, you are much appreciated day in and day out. We hope you are well loved and spoiled! We're excited to join you in this celebration!

### **Dyslexia: The New Kansas Disability**

Dyslexia has been added as a new Kansas disability covered by the state's special education law. Not all students who are identified as Dyslexic will qualify for special education. We must still go through the sped eligibility process. There is no federal funding for this new Kansas disability since it's a state initiative vs. a federal initiative, like Gifted Education. More information and guidance will be coming from KSDE.

***THANK YOU TO THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FOR THEIR DONATION THAT PROVIDED THE FUNDS TO PURCHASE OUR NEW OAE TESTING EQUIPMENT.***



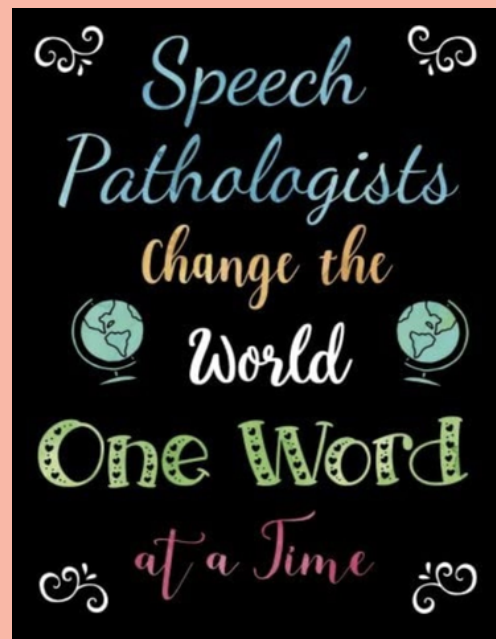
The GSI Corti™ is a portable, battery-operated diagnostic and screening instrument that measures Otoacoustic

Emissions (OAE) in infants, children, and adults. The Corti offers the ability to rapidly screen newborns to adults and provides diagnostic OAE testing. Thank you, Dr. Jon Pachta and the Knights of Columbus for supporting our needs of high quality hearing screening equipment.



**APPRECIATION IS ALWAYS IN FULL BLOOM FOR THESE QUEENS OF THE COOP.**

***NATIONAL SPEECH LANGUAGE  
PATHOLOGIST DAY  
THURSDAY, MAY 18***



We couldn't do it without you. **YOU ARE THE BEST!**

Shout out to our  
**FANTASTIC SLPs:**

Megan Clark  
Amy Donahue  
Melissa Ginavan  
Erin Moody  
Renee Pachta  
Theresa Pettay  
Natalie Winter

# SAVE THE DATES

## End of the Year ALL Staff Breakfast Wednesday, May 24, WHS Gym

7:30 am Breakfast Served

8:00-10:00 am Program

This is a **required** activity for **all** staff on duty and sign-in will be required. This is optional for those not on duty.

## 2023-2024 Child Find Screenings

August 9 - Wamego

September 22 - Westmoreland

December 1 - Alma

January 19 - St. George

March 22 - Wamego

## 2023-2024 Back to School Meetings

### Welcome Back - New Certified Staff/Providers

Wednesday, August 2

PLC Building

8:30am-Noon & 1:00-4:00pm  
(lunch on your own)

### ALL Certified Staff/Providers

Thursday, August 3

PLC Building

8:30am-Noon & 1:00-4:00pm  
(lunch on your own)

### Para Training

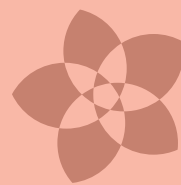
Wednesday, August 9 in PLC Building

9:00am-Noon: ALL Paras

1:00-4:00pm: NEW Paras

## 2023-2024 NCI Training Dates

- Tuesday, August 1 ~ Initial, 8:00am-3:00pm ~ PLC Bldg  
(1 hr. lunch break on your own)
- Wednesday, August 2 ~ Refresher, 8:30am-Noon ~ TBD
- Wednesday, August 2 ~ Refresher, 12:30-4:00pm ~ TBD
- Thursday, August 10 ~ Initial, 8:00am-3:00pm ~ PLC Bldg  
(1 hr. lunch break on your own)
- Friday, September 15 ~ Refresher, 8:30am-Noon ~ PLC Bldg
- Friday, September 15 ~ Refresher, 12:30-4:00pm ~ PLC Bldg
- Friday, January 5 ~ Initial, 8:00am-3:00pm ~ PLC Bldg  
(1 hr. lunch break on your own)
- Friday, March 22 ~ Initial or Refresher as needed ~ PLC Bldg



## ESY Information

**West Elementary, St. George Elementary and Wamego High School**

Monday–Thursday, June 12–15 and 19–22

8:00 am – 1:30 pm

Wamego High School: This could be YOU!

(Please let us know ASAP if you're interested.)

West Elementary: Michelle Stuhlsatz and Sara McCarter

St. George: Nichole Feldhausen and Tori Sieben

**Reminder:** Each Sped teacher/Service Provider refers their students for ESY for their service area only. If a student has an ESY service that was not referred by that provider, the team must discuss and make a final decision. The IEP must accurately reflect what will be provided in ESY. The referring staff provides high quality lesson plans and materials for ESY learning.

## Licensure

Be sure to check to see if your license is expiring this summer. You will want to get that process started ASAP so it doesn't lapse. Processing can 4–8 weeks.

## Attention Paras

- Please complete the para survey regarding your plans for 2023- 2024 that was emailed on Wednesday, April 5, 2023. They were due back by Friday, April 14.
- Please remember to submit a letter of resignation to your supervising teacher if you do not plan to return next year.
- Inservice logs are due to Jennifer Nider ASAP along with documentation of hours. If you are using college credits toward inservice, remember to send Jennifer a copy of your transcript once final grades are posted for the semester.

**Summer IEP Audit:** As part of the district fiscal audit, between 40-50 IEPs represented by all exceptionalities and all districts will be chosen for review. The Coop will be contacted about which IEPs will be selected for the summer audit. Diana will notify sped teachers/providers if any of your students are chosen for the audit and will give you specific directions at that time. As a reminder, please be sure your paper files are in order and complete ready for this audit.



## END OF YEAR CHECK-OUT

**Coop Check-Out:** Call Robin to schedule your appointment. Check-out is required for all certified staff. Be sure to print out and bring a completed copy of the Coop End-of-Year Check-Out sheet with you to your check-out meeting. All Progress Reports must be completed and sent to families no later than the last day of school. Be certain all Progress Reports have been completed for every student for every grading period as indicated in the IEP for the whole year. We look forward to meeting with you to get these important pieces of special education paperwork completed so you can jump into your summer upon the completion of your full contract days.

### **USD 329 Appt. Times (30 minutes)**

Wednesday, May 17 ~ 1:00-4:00pm

Thursday, May 18 ~ 8:00-11:30am & 1:00-4:00pm

### **USD 323 Appt. Times (30 minutes)**

Tuesday, May 23 ~ 8:00-11:30am

Wednesday, May 24 ~ 1:00-4:00pm

Thursday, May 25 ~ 8:00-11:30am & 1:00-4:00pm

### **USD 320 Appt. Times (30 minutes)**

Tuesday, May 23 ~ 8:00-11:30am & 1:00-4:00pm

Thursday, May 25 ~ 8:00-11:30am & 1:00-4:00pm

## Reporting Leave in Skyward

Please be sure you enter your leave in Skyward immediately when you know you will be gone. If you have an emergency and need to enter it afterwards, be sure to go back and enter that leave time. If you have any absences that have not been entered for this year, please enter immediately. Your help with this is greatly appreciate!

## Coop Level of Determination (LOD)

We have earned 3 Gold Stars! Each district "Meets Requirements," which is the highest status level for district IDEA level of determination. This is met by meeting substantial compliance on all compliance State Performance Plan (SPP) district-level indicators, including the timely submission of accurate data, compliant fiscal management, and system wide correction of non-compliance.

CONGRATS TO OUR ENTIRE TEAM!  
TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!

\*It is important to note, this is a different measure than the IDEA/Gifted IEP compliance we are working on currently. However, the correction of non-compliance on that measure feeds directly into our LOD.



# celeBRATIONS new BABIES



## *CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRISTIAN AND LEOTA ULSAKER!*

Zoey Mae was born on April 8 at 8:44 pm. She was 7 lbs. 2 oz. and 19.5" inches long. Chandler is a proud big brother.



## *CONGRATULATIONS TO JENNIFER NIDER ON THE BIRTH OF HER NEW GRANDSON!*

Jude Arden Nider was born on April 12, 22.25" long and weighing 9 lbs. 6 oz.



Jude is a snuggle bug!!





# CONGRATULATIONS

*CONGRATULATIONS TO OLIVIA SWIFT ~ GRADUATION AND ENGAGEMENT!*



# GRADUATION

*CONGRATULATIONS TO SHAYTON CLARK !*





Our sped team thoroughly enjoyed Dr. Kelly Gillespie's dynamic PD with Alma & Maple Hill staff!



*Happy  
Mother's Day*

to all the tough, hard-working,  
patient, loving, and all-around  
amazing moms out there!



### **IMPORTANT ED UPDATE:**

HB #2322 has provided an update to ED which is now Emotional Disability and is no longer Emotional Disturbance.

**Fun mapping activity with Mrs. Graber as she shares her fondness of Florida!**



Thank you, Mrs. McCarter, for bringing a fun musical experience for your students!



# PARA RETIREES

**CONGRATULATIONS TO DIANNE BARDEN, SALLY BREYMEYER, AND TERESA WELLS!**

**THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE...YOU WILL BE MISSED!**



**Dianne Barden** - I have been a Paraeducator for the past 25 years at West Elementary. Under a wonderful professional supervisor, Mrs. Marcia Beachler. I will definitely miss her and my co-workers whom I call my second family at West. But most of all I will miss the students who, by the end of a class period, tell you "Thank you" or "I totally understand that", or they give you a great big smile or high five or my made-up happy dance when something wonderful has happened. I have also enjoyed seeing the next generation come through West, seeing them get married and have children of their own coming to the school. I will also miss the gatherings we have at our school. I was the Chair of our Social Committee for many years and this is the first year not having that responsibility. Mrs. Flinn has an outstanding staff, who really care about each other.

I am most definitely looking forward to spending time with my family. I will be able to see our two beautiful grandchildren more who live in Connecticut with my son Allen and his wife Catherine. We also plan on taking trips to California to see my oldest son C.J and his wife Amanda. I will also be able to take cruises with my husband on his schedule, since I can go anytime. Of course, I will spend some time on a good book and my crafts.

I would like to Thank USD 320 and the Special Education staff for so many wonderful years. I have so many fond memories which will have a special place in my heart from this school district and West Elementary. Thank you.



**Teresa Wells** - I have been a para for 29 years, all have been at WMS but with 3 different teachers due to their retirements. I think I will miss most my own learning, though the kids are awesome, but I learn so much with them and from them.

In retirement I will be able to spend more time with my grandkids, one in Oklahoma, three in Tecumseh KS, and a step in Vancouver WA which we see very little of. I also will be spending more time helping my parents who are still out on the farm on their own but are 99 and 87 years old. I will be spending more time on my hobby of gardening, getting my hands dirty and working in the greenhouse. My greatest joy is sharing the bounty with others and putting up the produce for the winter. I am thinking of starting a small flock of chickens too. I love reading and plan to spend time doing that. I want do some volunteering at my church and perhaps in the community more. Maybe spend some time being a "tourist" in the area and get to know more about my home. I love all things history and finding out new things. I also know that some baking will be in my future.

I have enjoyed working at USD 320 and WMS. I will miss the camaraderie with the teachers, and the interacting with the students.

# PARA RETIREES

**Sally Breymeyer** - I was a sub para my first year in 2017, and I have been a full time para since 2018. I will miss the kids the most and my friends that I have made at West. I am looking forward to visiting all of my family, and seeing all the new great grandbabies. I will miss everyone. They have had such a huge impact on my life. I have really enjoyed working for the school. I plan to come back to volunteer and visit.

## **\*\*IMPORTANT INFORMATION\*\***

**Did you know.....We still have 185 IEP packets in process and unresolved as of today?! PLEASE be sure you get your IEP packets completed immediately and to the Coop. Reminder, all of this must be completed by your Coop check-out meeting time. Packet corrections that are needed within 10 days or less from the last day of school will not be sent to you to prevent packets from being delayed in delivery. These packets are held at the Coop for your completion during your check-out time and there will be a computer set-up for completing this. If you have not received a packet back, please contact the Coop to see where it is in the review process. We need ALL IEPs in ASAP to allow for ample time for a compliance check, your corrections of any errors if needed, and a final Coop review. Reminder, our IEP compliance team has members on teacher contracts and they will not be able to process IEPs once school is out. Your help is much appreciated! Teamwork makes the dream work! Together we can get this done so everyone can enjoy summer on time!**

### **IMPORTANT UPDATE ON DLM (Alternate Assessment) for 2023/24:**

For the 2023/24 school year, students taking the DLM MUST take BOTH the fall and spring assessments to be counted for assessment participation for the year. It is imperative ALL students taking the DLM complete all parts of the DLM! Please reach out to the Coop if you should have any questions about this.



# BIRTHDAYS

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

Sandy Clark - 1  
Dani Evans - 3  
Jill Garetson - 5  
Kattie Phillips - 9  
Anne Warner - 9  
Lisa Hartley - 10  
Carter Topliff - 10  
Christian Ulsaker - 12  
Ursula Burger - 19  
Aaron Stinson - 21  
Kayla Fisher - 26

## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Kylie Weber - 1  
Alexandria McCallum - 3  
Racheal Hunt - 7  
Heather Niehues - 7  
Fatima Nava - 9  
Porclein Unruh - 15  
Michelle Stuhlsatz - 17  
Tori Brown - 20  
Krystal Nelson - 20  
Stephani Mocabee - 21  
Amanda Marfield - 22  
Laurie Temple 27  
Carli Caplinger - 28

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

Melanie Stone - 2	Erin Moody - 21
Shantell Arthington - 7	Tanji Cassatt - 21
Stephanie Downs - 11	Colleen Tisdale - 21
Shayton Clark - 12	Courtney Walsh - 23
Betsy Tipping - 13	Heather Swiger 25
Nichole Feldhausen - 14	Sarah Fiehler - 27
Kelly Estes - 18	Lance Fuller - 27
Jennifer Nider - 18	



# INSPIRATION

Don't ADAPT to the  
ENERGY in the room.

INFLUENCE it.

HEART OF THE CLASS



"Despite the  
forecast, live  
like it's spring."



Although no one can go  
back and make a brand-new  
start, anyone can start  
from now and make a  
brand-new ending..

It's not what we  
have in life, but  
who we have in our  
lives that matters



**HAPPINESS  
IS THE  
LAST DAY  
OF SCHOOL**

