

The 2017-2018 school year has begun and it is my pleasure to welcome over 6,000 new and returning students. I hope the summer went well with plenty of time to rest and recharge for a productive year at Bartlesville Public Schools.

Our school district is fortunate to be a part of a community that supports our teachers and students.

Thanks to the generosity from Truity Credit Union, every teacher in the district was given a 50 dollar bill to spend however he or she chooses. Teachers spend a great deal of money out of their pocket on supplies for their classrooms so that our students are well equipped and prepared for the start of school. Kristin Flick, a teacher at Wayside Elementary, said she is so grateful to Truity for the gift. She is going to use it for herself and her classroom. "I rarely spend money for a pedicure; I usually talk myself out of such frivolous things! This will be a fun and relaxing way to celebrate the start of school. With whatever is left, I plan to buy earbuds for the students in my classroom to use throughout the year. Thank you Truity for your thoughtful #thankateacher gift!"

Leadership Bartlesville is an issue-oriented leadership development program through the Bartlesville Regional Chamber of Commerce. The program has already donated more than three thousand dollars worth of copy paper to the district. The district received 120 cases of paper just in time for the start of school.

A school supplies drive led by the Bartlesville Regional Chamber of Commerce resulted in supplies being donated prior to the start of school.

Over the summer, the Bartlesville Public Schools Foundation raised funds to purchase over 7,000 solar eclipse glasses for all students and staff to watch the solar eclipse on August 21. Even though 92% of the sun will be obscured at the local maximum, it is said that our eyes may not directly perceive the dimming of our surroundings, unlike within the path of totality north of Kansas City. However, the loss of solar radiation will make it noticeably cooler, and only a sliver of the sun will show when safely viewed through approved eclipse glasses. The district sincerely appreciates the following donors who contributed via the Bartlesville Public Schools Foundation to provide the eyewear: ChevronPhillips Chemical, Truity Credit Union, Bennett Vision, Oklahoma Medical Eye Group, PSO, Dr. Emily Bussey, Bartlesville Astronomical Society, Milton Enderlin, and Vicky Travaglini.

The first two weeks in August, the Bartlesville Print Shop had a Paper Challenge for area school districts. Community members could purchase a ream or case of paper, at cost, to donate to the school of his or her choice. Bartlesville schools received several cases from that program.

The Women's Leadership Council, an initiative of the Bartlesville Regional United Way, focuses on education, income and health. The Council sold cookbooks to donate \$6,000 to the Jane Phillips Elementary PTO for playground equipment for its pre-kindergarten students.

Thanks to community support, Bartlesville Public Schools is a great place to teach, and a great place to learn.

Go Bruins!

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This column is online at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1w0NsDZZUkBk0zNn8smhIndWin2js_63L8X0a0uYa0iE/edit?usp=sharing

