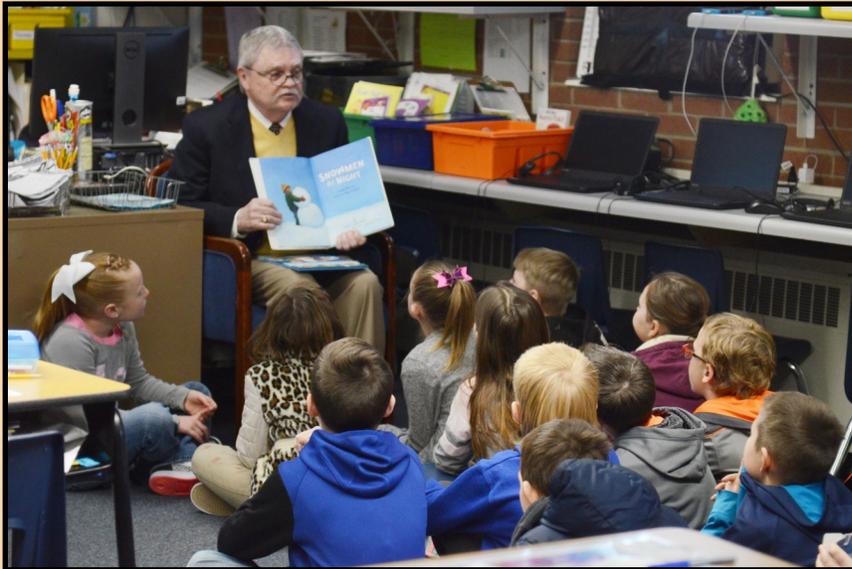


Monday, March 4, 2019
Vol. 1, No. 2

Just so you know



THE GIFT OF READING: With all the advancements we have seen in educational technology, reading aloud to children remains among the most important things we can do.

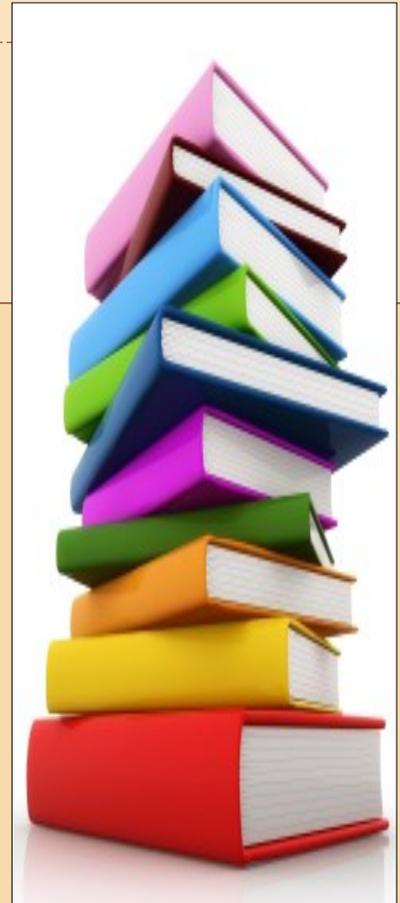
When I look back on my career someday in the sunny future, I'll remember a lot of things I want to forget and forget a lot of things I want to remember. But I will be comforted in knowing that all of my life's experiences will be in there somewhere, shelved in the muse for selective reflection.

More than anything else, I will call on those moments with kids in a school setting when all things good seemed to come together in a miraculous perfect storm that touched my educator's heart.

Over the last several weeks, I've been adding to that storehouse of little souvenirs by spending time in each of our schools. The experience has been a smile personified with David Gilmore playing guitar music in the background. How could such an experience ever be forgotten?

Thanks to all the teachers who invited me to teach again and to their students who took me back to where it all started.

Superintendent Davis



Vision Statement:

"Education is a collaborative effort of home, community, and school. Students experience success on a daily basis and excel in performance through applying knowledge to real life situations. Schools are student-centered, guided by educators who possess excellent leadership and educational skills. Education expands beyond the classroom walls through the use of technology, and the curriculum meets the highest standards of an ever-changing world. Graduates are prepared to enter the workforce or continue their formal education at an advanced technical institution or a college or university. The Emery County School District believes that learning today provides leadership for tomorrow."

Connor Cramer sworn in as student board member

HUNTINGTON: A new member has joined the Emery Board of Education. Emery High junior Connor Cramer of Castle Dale was sworn in at the February board meeting at Huntington Elementary after which he assumed his role as a non-voting member.

Utah Code allows for high school-aged students to petition the board for membership as long as they are enrolled in a high school within the district and have gathered signatures in support from 10 percent of the student body.

The petition was first presented to the local board in the January meeting and received favorable response from board members. After that, Connor was invited to the February meeting where he introduced himself and his family, talked about his interest in being on the board, and answered a few questions.

Connor, who is the son of Madonna Cramer of Castle Dale, said that he found the possibility of being a student member of the local board intriguing and added that being part of such an important body would help build his



Conner Cramer takes the Oath of Office.

personal resume. He noted that he plans on applying for Sterling Scholar later this school year.

District Business Administrator Jared Black administered the "Oath of Office" and then Connor took his seat with the rest of the board as the meeting went through the regular agenda items.

Being a student board member will bring a voice to the board that reflects the needs of the district's students as well as a perspective that will certainly play into the board's decision-making process. However, there are limitations, according to state code. A student member does not have a vote on any motions, nor is a student member allowed to partici-

pate or attend closed sessions.

At Emery High, and as a ninth grader at San Rafael Jr. High (now a middle school), Connor has maintained exemplary academic standing and currently has a 4.0 GPA. He has been involved in golf and soccer as well as band and is especially interested in science.

His term of office runs through June of 2019, but he has expressed interest in making application for a second term which would begin July 1 and end on June 30, 2020. As a board member, he will be invited to participate in training sessions and Utah State School Boards Association activities and its January conference.

What needs to happen for a “Snow Day” Declaration?



The Emery School District has certainly had its share of snow this winter, especially in February. One storm in particular created not only some challenges for students and parents when it came to getting to school, but which also raised questions about what it would take for the district to declare a “Snow Day.”

Heavy snow fell in Emery County the evening of Thursday, Feb. 14. It was a Valentine’s Day surprise that left several inches covering everything that was exposed to the night sky. As the day began on Friday, Feb. 15, many district stakeholders were wondering if school would be held at all that day.

The last school closure in the district for a weather-related event was 30 years ago, so “Snow Days” have not been prominent in annual planning although general common sense procedures have been in place every year.

On the day in question, not only did the district experience heavy snow pack, there was also a power outage at Cottonwood Elementary School. Either of these events had the potential for school closure, but ultimately closure was avoided.

Regarding the power outage, the district was in communication with Rocky Mountain Power which offered an estimate of how long the power would be out at the Orangeville school. From that, it was determined that school would begin on time although a plan was in place should the outage last longer than estimated.

Regarding the consideration of closing schools for a “Snow Day,” the district received information from our transportation department that all buses

Is there such a thing as too much snow?

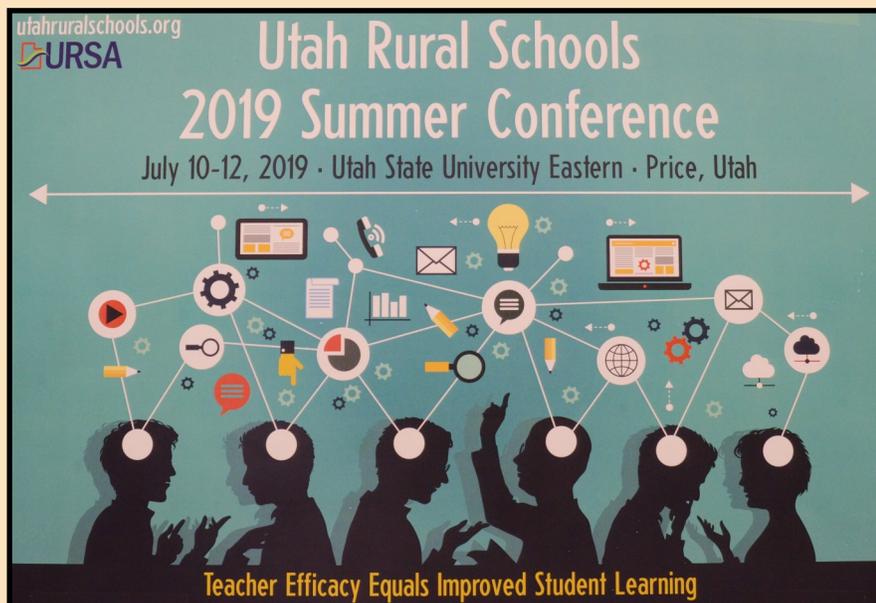
were running, the main roads had been plowed, and parking lots at every school had been cleared by the maintenance department. It was no longer snowing, and there were no reported weather-related slide offs or accidents.

The district office notified each school administrator or secretary that school would be held and that late arrivals should not be marked late or absent. Parents who expressed concerns about sending their children to school were told that it is their right to keep kids home from school under such circumstances.

State law requires schools to be in session for 180 days during the school year and to provide a minimum of 990 hours of instruction. Any days missed that would compromise the 180/990 rule would have to be made up. For our district, a “Snow Day” would likely result in the loss of a spring break day as a makeup day to assure the district would have all 180 days required.

Following the Valentine’s Day storm, the district superintendent, safety officer, transportation supervisor, maintenance supervisor and the Emery County Sheriff’s Office met to review the protocol to be followed in the event of severe weather. The meeting resulted in the shoring up of notification procedures, identifying triggers for school closure, and the chain of command for making the ultimate decision regarding declaring a “Snow Day.”

RURAL SCHOOLS PLANNING MOVING FORWARD: The 2019 Rural Schools Conference will be held at USU Eastern on July 10-11-12. This is the first time the conference has been held at a location other than Cedar City. Registration for the conference is underway. Also, applications for breakout presentations are being accepted.



STICKY NOTES:

CONGRATULATIONS: Three outstanding spellers from the Emery School District will travel to Grand High School March 6, for the Regional Spelling Bee after placing in the top three of the district competition. They are: Jexton Woodhouse, 8th grade, Canyon View Middle, first place; Jaxon Durrant, 5th grade, Huntington Elementary, second place; and Bryndi Stevens, 6th grade, San Rafael Middle School, third place. These spellers will be competing against the top three spellers from Carbon, Grand, and San Juan with the overall winner going to Washington D.C. for national competition.

HUNTSMAN RE-ELECTED USBE CHAIRMAN: The Utah State Board of Education recently re-elected Mark Huntsman to a third term as chair of the 15-member governing board. Chair Huntsman represents District 14, which includes the Emery School District. He is a resident of Fillmore. Also re-elected was Brittney Cummins as vice chair. She represents District 6 covering west-central Salt Lake County.

2019 UTAH LEGISLATURE: The first day of the 2019 Utah Legislature was Monday, Jan. 28. The 45-day session will end on Thursday, March 14. Each week of the session, a Rural Caucus Meeting and a Cowboy Caucus Meeting will be held that directly involve rural legislators and educational leaders. There will also be a weekly meeting of the Utah School Boards Association and the Utah Schools Superintendents Association. Known as the Joint Legislative Committee (JLC), this organization works toward advancing the needs of Utah public schools while lobbying for bills that will benefit Utah's children.

Coach Jeffs earns national athletic director certification

INDIANAPOLIS, IN: The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) is pleased to announce that Todd Jeffs, athletic director at Emery High School, has been recognized by this association as a Certified Athletic Administrator.

To earn this distinction, Coach Jeffs demonstrated the highest level of knowledge and expertise in the field of interscholastic athletic administration. The voluntary certification process includ-

ed a thorough evaluation of the candidate's educational background, experience and professional contributions, as well as a rigorous, comprehensive written exam.

Coach Jeffs is one of an elite group of interscholastic adminis-



Coach Jeffs

trators nationwide to attain this level of professionalism.

The NIAAA is a national professional organization consisting of all 50 state athletic administrator associations and more than 10,000 individual members. It is dedicated to promoting the professional growth of high school athletic administrators and preserving the educational nature of interscholastic athletics and the place of these programs in the secondary school curriculum.

Schools awarded Technology grants for STEM Ed

The Emery District Technology Department recently awarded nearly \$20,000 in grant funding to promote technology and STEM Education in Emery County schools.

The grant funding came from the district's Digital Teaching & Learning Grant from the Utah State Board of Education for the current school year.

Nine of the 10 schools in the district received funding with the largest grant going to Book Cliff Elementary for 17 Chrome-books.

In addition, the Tech Department awarded \$300 to each district school for use in honoring student and faculty technology innovation efforts.

POSTER CONTEST

UTAH SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

The Utah School Bus Safety Poster Contest will be held during the summer of 2019. Students in grades K-8 and special education students grades K-12 are encouraged to enter. Finalists will be chosen to represent Utah for the National Contest.

Poster contest rules can be found at <https://www.napt.org/postercontest>. Michael A. Benedict will be coordinating and organizing the Utah Contest.

Deadline for entries is July 26, 2019, and should be mailed to:

Michael A. Benedict
394 South 1450 East
Provo, UT 84606

The 2019 contest theme is:

RED LIGHTS MEAN STOP!

Utah State Board of Education 250 East 500 South P.O. Box 144200 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200
Sydnee Dickson, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**Emery School District
Mission Statement:**

***“The mission of the
Emery County
School District is to
provide a compre-
hensive education
that will prepare
students to take a
proactive and re-
sponsible role in an
ever-changing
world.”***

District Calendar:



Monday, March 4: SHARP Survey

Tuesday, March 5: Association/
Board/Superintendent Meeting, 7:30
am, District Office... Administrative
Council, 8:30 am, District Office

Wednesday, March 6: District Secre-
tary Training, 9 am, District Office... Regional Spelling Bee, 1:30
pm, Grand High School, Moab... School Board Meeting, Cleve-
land Elementary, 6:30 work session & 7 pm regular session

Thursday, March 14: Last day of the 2019 Utah Legislative Ses-
sion

Friday, March 15: Third term ends... PLC Day for teachers... No
school for students

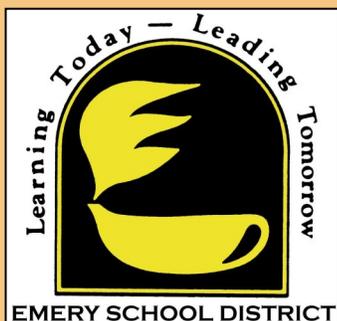
April 15-19: Emery District Spring Break

**Emery County School
District**

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Huntington, Utah
84528

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Fax: 435-687-9849

Website: emerycsd.org



CELEBRATION: Bob Price, who has worked in the maintenance department in the Emery District for over 30 years, entered retirement March 1. An open house was recently held in his honor. Above are Bob, his wife Doris, and children Dorian and Lydia.