**Kansas Birthday Celebration – Guest speakers**

To celebrate Kansas’s 150th birthday in January, the SGS Library hosted a variety of guest speakers focused on local agricultural products. Local farmers and ranchers read the book One Kansas Farmer to students, and we learned a variety of interesting facts about our state. Each farmer then talked to students about his or her family’s farming operation. As a result, students made a personal connection with a farmer in our community and learned more about the agricultural products produced in our area. Thanks to the local farmers who shared their time and expertise with our students: Monte Ball, Heather Oden, Clark Schmidt, Linda Woodworth, and Todd Zimmerman.

In addition, Phyllis Wilkey spoke to K-2 students about her black and white “oreo” cattle. She brought a display that included a stuffed calf, a cowhide, display board, and bags of feed. Each student left storytime with a photo of an oreo cow and calf and two oreo cookies.

Cindy Hogan, our school psychologist who is also a beekeeper, spoke to 3rd-5th grade students about her honeybees. She gave a PowerPoint presentation and also brought a variety of her beekeeping equipment. Each student was treated to a flavored honey stick, which they enjoyed eating.

**Kansas books to read aloud (my favorite titles are in red):**

***One Kansas Farmer*** by Devin Scillian

***S is for Sunflower*** by Devin Scillian

Free 24-page teacher’s guide available with LOTS of great reproducible activities.

Download here: <http://sleepingbearpress.com/teaching_guides>. You can purchase both of the above titles in ebook format for FollettShelf with unlimited copies, which gives you a classroom set.

***Climbing Kansas Mountains*** by George Shannon

***Johnny Kaw*** by Devin Scillian (Kansas tall tale)

***Johnny Kaw*** by Jerri Garretson

***Kansas, Kansas, what do you see?*** by Stephanie Suppes. Uses the format of Bill Martin, Jr.'s Brown Bear book to introduce Kansas symbols. Purchased at a bookstore in Hutchinson.

***Kansas Katie*** by Jerri Garretson

***This is the Sunflower*** by Lola Schaeffer

***Prairie Chicken Little*** by Jackie Hopkins. Great to pair with the original Chicken Little story.

Kansas Farm Bureau has published a series of children’s books focused on agriculture written by Dan Yunk. Titles include: ***Celebrate wheat, The soil neighborhood, Growing up strong, Milk comes from a cow***. The books were donated to our library.

DVD: ***Symbols of Kansas: Sunflower Showcase*** by Sagebrush Video Productions. Popular with our 1st and 2nd grade teachers.