

## NOVEMBER STAFF INTERVIEWS AND SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

### 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

**Article by Harley Baker**

Mrs. Julie Wuestewald is the second-grade teacher at Scribner Snyder. Wuestewald has been teaching at Scribner Snyder for 32 years now. Her teaching career started at a country school between Lyons and West Point at District 32 where she taught for 2 years before coming to Scribner. Wuestewald loves teaching children, explaining that she wants to see their faces when the light bulb comes on. She loves seeing when they understand what she is teaching.



Wuestewald enjoys teaching second grade, and she has been doing so with a positive attitude. She even acknowledges that she is a positive influence on the kids. Though Wuestewald does her very best to be an ideal role model for the kids, she explains the second graders are very honest and follow the rules. "I think that I'm a positive role model, respectful, and kind and I want to pass these traits down to the kids I teach," Wuestewald said.

"Every day is a new experience while teaching children. All of the children come up with different questions each day," said Wuestewald.

Once Covid-19 restrictions were placed in school, it effected all students PreK-12. But the students who seemed to struggle the most were younger kids. Yet, Wuestewald explains, the second graders have been adjusting just fine. Being six feet apart and wearing a mask were the only major changes that she faced when it came to teaching this year.

"They go with the flow. They do what they are asked to do," said Wuestewald.

For thirty-two years and counting, Wuestewald has been teaching. She has done a great job being a role model to look up to. She is respectful, kind, positive, and has certainly done wonders for kids. We hope she continues her amazing way of teaching second grade.

### Preschool

**Article by Krystal Bigley**

Ms. Sally Cole is a preschool teacher at Scribner-Snyder Community School and she has been teaching here for 25 years. Previously, Cole taught at an Indian reservation in South Dakota as a special education teacher. She also taught kindergarten, first grade and



second grade before becoming a preschool teacher. "I also taught Title One which was kindergarten, first and second grade students," Ms. Cole said. She also taught second grade as a co-teacher. Ms. Cole taught kindergarten for fifteen years at SSCS. This is her fifth year teaching preschool students at S-S.

Some of the activities Ms. Cole is doing with her students include writing their names and spelling them out, learning one alphabet letter a week, talking about Thanksgiving and the Pilgrims and what they did and why they celebrate Christmas and different holidays. In Science they do the sink and float experiment. They also are going to be working with pumpkins and learning about the process of taking the seeds out and describing them.

Ms. Cole enjoys being a teacher and she loves to teach her students how to read and work with vocabulary words. She loves watching her students grow in all of the things that they have done over the time she has taught them.

"We do something on YouTube that is called See it, Say it, Sign it," Cole said. Cole sees the carry-over of this lesson when she sometimes asks the students to say a letter, they will sign it in sign language and then they will say it.

There are many things that she doesn't like about having to add new things to the classroom because of Covid. She doesn't like having to wear masks. She talked about the fact that the masks were a problem in the classroom. She also has to sanitize everything all the time.

"I constantly have to remind the students to keep their masks up," Cole said.

Usually after school Ms. Cole can be found working at her other place of work. She works at the Elkhorn Valley Golf Course in Hooper. She also has a side business which is called Cole's Confections which includes decorating cakes and cupcakes.

This year Ms. Cole has also made a return to theatre. She is working alongside Mrs. Heather Peters as the assistant One-Act director. "When I was doing One Act play in the past, I liked being the one act director," Cole said. She has also been an active member of the West Point Community Theatre the past few years.

"I had a lot of teachers who inspired me to teach. I remember Mrs. Green and she was so awesome and so, I would say, I looked at my teachers and the joy they brought to me. I want to bring it back to my students," she added.

## **P.E.**

**Article by Kaiden Jones**



I interviewed our P.E teacher at SSCS Mr. Kirk Kellough. I asked him a couple of questions about P.E and the Covid-19 situation. I wondered what the hardest thing was to do after a class to prevent the spread of Covid-19. He responded saying, "I have to clean all the equipment that all

the students touch. It's hard when you have little kids always seeing something and they want to play with it."

The next question I asked him was "What is your favorite unit to teach?" "My favorite unit to teach is Ping Pong. I like it because I can show all the kids my tricks and I love the competition that the kids give."

Space in the buildings is pretty limited, so I also asked him "Where do you set it up the tables?"

"We set them up on the stage. I wish there was somewhere else we could have it because I don't like fighting the bleachers and games in the gym." The gym and stage are always very busy so finding a good time to complete the Ping Pong unit is especially tricky.

My last question was "What is favorite class to teach?" "I don't have a favorite class. I like the variety I get in the classes. I like going from Kindergarten to high school. No offense to you guys!" he said jokingly.

## **New Staff at SSCS**

### **Article by Sydney Wolfgram**

Mrs. Rachyl Kafonek graduated from a small school around the area. "I had great memories from that school so being able to give back to another small school is rewarding." Kafonek is the personal finance and accounting teacher for the high school. She is also the librarian for the elementary and high school.

"I am excited to get to know all of the students. Even though it is a small school, there are still so many names to learn."

This is Kafonek's first year teaching. "The chance to make a difference, even just for one kid. I still remember the teachers from my school that impacted me the most."





This is Ms. Carlie Loth's first year of teaching. "An opportunity came up to take over the sixth-grade class and I thought it would be a great opportunity to get to know a smaller town." I'm most excited about forming relationships with all the students and getting to know all the staff," Loth said. Loth is originally from Lincoln, Nebraska.

Mr. Joe Peitzmeier came to Scribner-Snyder for the opportunity. "At the time the superintendent position was open, and the district was looking at the merger with Logan View, I saw that as an opportunity to help that district with the transition," Peitzmeier said.

Peitzmeier was most excited about meeting kids this year. "With masks, it is really hard. I'm excited about serving students and staff and the community to make Scribner-Snyder the best school that we can even in hard times of COVID," he added

Peitzmeier has done a lot of things in his career. "I think the thing that inspires me the most is just to help people. I want students to have the best education that they can," he added.



## High School Office

### Article by Sydney Wolfgram

Mrs. Shelly Schulenberg started her adult career life at the Credit Bureau in Fremont before opening an in-home day care in 1990. She stayed at home for 12 years raising her own children and dozens of others before taking a job at the Rustler Sentinel. "I worked there from the summer of 2002 until 2010 before accepting the high school secretary's position at S-S. This is my 11<sup>th</sup> year in the office, but I started at SS as an assistant volleyball coach in 1998."



Schulenberg's favorite part about working here is the interaction with students and staff. "When my kids were in school it was very nice to be able to keep track of them and stay on top of their grades. Being able to make life-long friendships with the students and volleyball players was also a plus."

Schulenberg has a very busy schedule. She begins the day by answering phone calls, taking attendance and sending lunch count to the kitchen. During third period she compiles and reads the announcements to the high school. "I work closely with Mr. Stithem and the teachers and perform any of the office tasks they need done," Schulenberg said.

She also works with the technology in the school. "I post items on the school webpage calendar and daily announcement page as well as the S-S Facebook page. This year I took on a new assignment updating the TV screen daily in the commons area with menu items and new photos of

happenings around campus,” Schulenberg said. When each quarter of school ends, she stores grades, prints report cards, calculates honor roll and prints up the honor roll cards. In Schulenberg’s spare time, she enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren and also enjoys officiating volleyball games.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Article by Thomas Baker

Mrs. Marissa Gaston has worked at Scribner-Snyder for 2 years as the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. She graduated from Peru State College with a degree in education. Gaston and her husband lived in Fremont before moving to Hooper.



Gaston worked in an infinite classroom at The Child Saving Institute in Omaha before she came to work at S-S. Along with teaching and being a new mom, Gaston is currently working on her master’s degree from Grand Canyon University. “Reading is my favorite subject, so I am getting a master’s degree in reading,” Gaston told me.

“My favorite experiences here are working with the kids and other teachers, and working on projects. Students like group projects. They ask to work with a partner to collaborate and share ideas instead of working individually. Currently in science we are working in groups making small models of the solar system.”

When I asked Gaston about how her classroom looks different this year because of Covid she replied, “The students do not like wearing masks. I have to remind them to cover their noses. They also ask for mask breaks which we take for 5 minutes in the morning and afternoon. I have less plan time this year and more time with them. We can’t be too close and we have to keep our distance and clean everything.” Despite all the Covid related changes, the 5<sup>th</sup> graders and their teacher are making the best of the year.



### **3-4 Para**

**Story by Sam Stadt**

Mrs. Amanda Dames wears many hats at Scribner-Snyder Schools. Dames has worked at Scribner-Snyder for a year now, this being her second year. Dames works breakfast, lunch and recess with a variety of age groups. She is also a para in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade rooms. When students need help, she assists them or just gives them extra guidance. She loves interacting with the kids at

school.

“I like to get to know them, joke around with them,” Dames said.

As Dames has been able to get adjusted to working with kids for a year, thoughts came up on how she was handling the new adjustments that are being made related to Covid. She explained how there wasn't too much change. Yes, kids had to keep their distance but overall, she was still doing her job.

“Masks don't bother me at all. I do get tired of harping on kids about masks. There is a quieter lunch room this year which is nice,” Dames explained.

Dames is still excited about working with the kids. Even with Covid-19 Dames keeps the pep in her step as she strides through the hallways. She makes sure that all the kids are getting the help they need.





# MATT ARAGON HULL

Plans after high school: College

Favorite experience: Just being  
in class with friends

Favorite teacher: Mrs. Schafer because  
her classes are always interesting

What motivated you in school: My dad and  
my friends

What will you miss most: My friends