



The Bluebird

A Publication for the Alumni of Goessel High School

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Alumni Association

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Visit us on facebook:

[goessel alumni](https://www.facebook.com/goesselalumni)

The alumni newsletter is also posted on the alumni page of the USD 411 webpage.

90 YEARS OF BLUE GOESSEL HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI AND FRIENDS 1926-2016

While attending Goessel High School, you learned to move forward. Now, we're asking you to come back.

Alumni and friends are invited to celebrate 90 years of education at Goessel High School throughout the weekend of October 7 and 8, 2016.

By attending the event you will help tell the story of Goessel High School and reflect on the heritage of education in this community. It will give you the opportunity to meet old friends, classmates, acquaintances and teachers, while reminiscing memorable experiences.

The alumni committee composed of Judy Unruh, Dan Bergen, Ilona Abrahams, Diana Schmidt, James Wiens, Patrick Flaming, and Laura Unrau are inviting you to attend this event.

The weekend will begin on Friday evening with a football game between the Goessel Bluebirds and the Ellinwood Eagles. Food will be served by the alumni committee and classes may choose to tailgate prior to the game. Half time activities will include recognition and accomplishments of alumni. The Goessel High School Pep Band under the direction of Scott Taylor, will provide pep band selections from the past.

Saturday morning will kick off with a Firemen's fundraiser breakfast sponsored by the Goessel Fire Department. A large percentage of the Goessel Fire Department is composed of Goessel High School Alumni.

These folks take time out of their busy schedules to voluntarily provide a service to the community during a time of crisis.

Make plans to attend this breakfast and show your support to a group of people who give back to the community on a regular basis.

Opportunities for various activities exist throughout the day on Saturday. The Goessel Community Foundation will sponsor a Chili Cook-off benefit on the "Goessel Slab". Come and share your slab stories while enjoying some spicy chili.

The Goessel Community Foundation will also host a fund raiser at the Pine Edge Golf Course. Alumni and friends are invited to participate in this event. There will be more information about this event in the summer newsletter.

Throughout the afternoon, alumni are invited to visit the Mennonite Heritage and Agricultural Museum. A one-room schoolhouse display and information regarding the original 1906 Preparatory School will be highlighted.

Weather permitting, The Goessel Flying Club will provide demonstrations next to the baseball fields.

The high school will be open throughout the morning and afternoon. Classes may choose to meet during this time. Tours of the high school and grade school will also be available. Refreshments will be provided while you pursue displays relating to Goessel High School.



T-Shirts

The Bluebird mascot and emblem has experienced many changes since its creation. Throughout the history of the high school, students have asked, “why the bluebird?” Some students have enjoyed the tranquil spirit the bluebird projects, while others have suggested a mascot that would emanate more strength.

Some years ago, local historian and former art teacher at GHS, Brian Stucky, did some research. Brian found four other high schools in

the U.S. with the mascot of a bluebird. Just like Goessel, they all began with a natural bluebird design sitting or flying but with time students decided they wanted a fighting bluebird.

Here at Goessel, the mascot has gone through five major changes. A flying bluebird, pictured on the front page, first appeared on the 1929 Bluebird. The first appearance of the fighting bluebird, pictured on the left, was painted on the center circle of the gym floor in 1970 at

the request of the GHS student council. More history about the Goessel mascot will be presented at the evening program on October 8, 2016.

The alumni committee is working with Evan Hiebert class of 2010, to design a logo for t-shirts and caps to commemorate this event.

T-Shirts and caps will be available for order on-line in early summer. An order form will also be included in the summer newsletter.

Do you know?

Goessel Rural High School opened in 1926 with 29 students.

The first basketball game in the 1935 building was on December 19, 1936.

GHS was accredited as a class A high school in 1941. At the time Goessel was the only class A school in the North Marion County League.

New lockers were installed in 1941. Keys and locks were available for .25. These lockers were replaced in the summer of 2012.

The first track was located north on State Street. It was a quarter mile track in a pasture where cows grazed. The school rented 10 acres for this purpose.

School began at 9:00 am and ended at 4:00 pm with a one hour break for lunch.

In December of 1941 someone broke into the office and knocked the dial off the safe and stole a small amount of money. Two more robbery attempts were made in 1950 and 1960. There was no money in the safe at either time, but the safe sustained essential damage.

Tennis was played on a dirt court as early as 1929.

Horseshoes became a competitive sport in 1937 and was held in connection with track.

A Goessel baseball team existed as early as 1926.

The first yearbook was printed in 1929 and would not be printed again until the 1940-1941 school year.

The first band was organized in 1936. Thirty-nine students were enrolled.

1953 was cited as an out-

standing year for vocal. There were seventy-five members in the A-Cappella Choir.

On January 16, 1941, this notice appeared in the Bluebird school newspaper. “All league activities except music and basketball have been suspended for the rest of the year. This is done in effort to conserve fuel and tires for national defense.”

A pep club was organized in 1928 to foster school spirit.

Pranks were common. Goessel and Lehigh High School were rivals. One year at contest while the Lehigh boys’ quartet performed, the Goessel boys quartet sang off tune behind the curtain.

Come to the Common’s area on Saturday to hear more, “Do You Know” comments and stories.

Keeping In Touch

Goessel High School celebrated its 60th anniversary in 1986. A total of 900 people attended this event.

Thirty years have brought many changes to the Goessel community and society in general. Planning for this type of an event is somewhat of a guessing game.

As you begin to hear about this event, please spread the word. We have an alumni address list of 1300, but not all email and P.O. box addresses are current. We continue to hear from people who are not on the list. If

you have classmates that you correspond with in any sort of way, do us a favor and make sure they know about this event. Even better, ask if you can share their address. Email addresses are preferred to cut down on postage and paper.

We also are inviting all former teachers and administration to this event. If you have stayed in contact with any of this people, we would love to have their contact information.

Only one more newsletter will be published in early

summer. It will be posted on the USD 411 website, as well as Facebook. This newsletter will contain registration for the meal on Saturday night and also t-shirt orders if you are unable to order on-line. Additional information concerning the event will be sent via email, and Facebook. Local newspapers will also carry information about the event.

If you cannot attend the event we would enjoy hearing your thoughts and stories. Send these to the address listed on the front page.

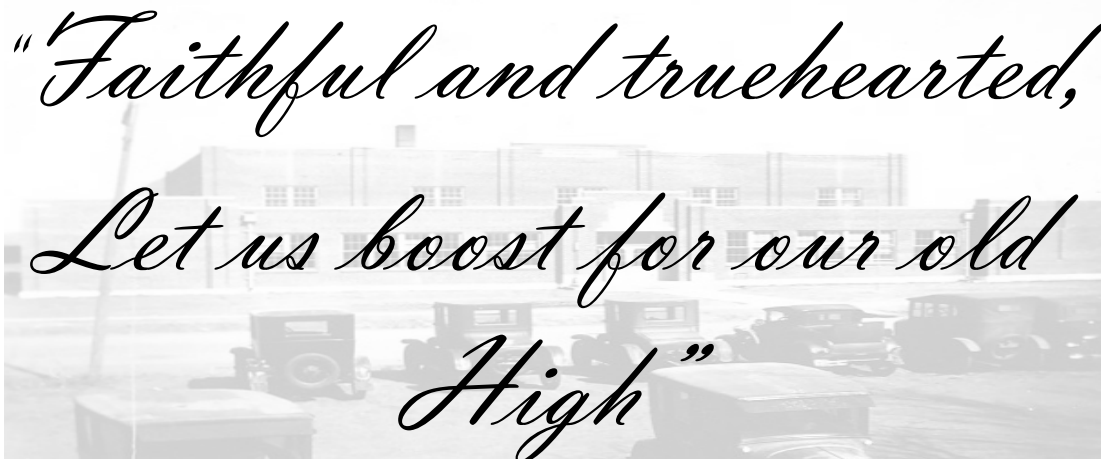
Schedule for October 8, Evening Program

5:00—6:45: Dinner will be served at the Goessel Elementary School. Keith Banman class of 1969, and owner of Keith's Foods in Goessel will cater the meal. Preregistration is required. Registration forms will be in the summer newsletter.

7:00: Gathering activities in the auditorium.

7:30: Program

An alumni choir will perform at the evening program. Greg Bontrager, former vocal teacher, and Jerry Toews, former band teacher will lead this group. If you are interested in performing with this group let me know.



*"Faithful and truehearted,
Let us boost for our old
High"*

A Publication from the
Alumni Association

Ilona Abrahams, Editor

How smart are you?

1. What year did a group of students decide to build a wall in the hallway with bricks and cement blocks?
2. Which individual has held the position of high school principal and superintendent for the longest period of time?
3. What year did the boy's basketball team win 1st at state?
4. The Goessel girls basketball team made its first appearance at state in which year?



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