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Was there really a summer this year? We've certainly had some hot days here and there, but it hasn't really felt like summer, has it? Our tomato plants seem hesitant, too, as though they're not really sure if they are supposed to ripen or not or just succumb to the inevitable and become squirrel food, since the squirrels certainly don't seem to care about ripeness.

The student parking lots were empty during the summer, but that's about the only thing that felt different than a normal day during the school year. Busy, busy days and not a summer-time lull in sight!

Hopefully you had more of a summer experience, as a new school year is waiting for us next week!

As usual, Asbell and Happy Hollow got their yet started for us when they opened for school on August 6. By all accounts, things are going well, and the rest of us shouldn't fear dipping our toes in the 2009-2010 school year water on August 19.

Our new teachers reported to work yesterday, and the returning teachers will report on Wednesday. Our new teachers will meet today with the Northside Rotary Club for our annual New Teacher Luncheon at the new Butterfield Trail Elementary School cafeteria. All involved look forward to this event, and we're grateful to the Northside Club for support of this event.

Our new certified staff members for this year include:

Butterfield: Laura Baxter and Caryn Finney.

District: Judy Imhauser

FHS: Kelly Riley

Happy Hollow: Krissy Duke

Holcomb: Melanie Johnson, Cara Mendoza, Jody Robertson, Haley Weaver

Holt: Vanessa Rouse, Amber Ebbrecht (also McNair, Owl Creek)

Leverett: MacKenzie Propps, Lerinezo Robinson (also FHS), Lindsey Runyan, Rick Sullins.

McNair: Kaitlin Menihan, Rachel Waggener, Margot Cowing (also Owl Creek), Noelle Benton (also Vandergriff).

Owl Creek: Angelia Arguello

Ramay: Michelle Ciuffetelli, Jordan Rose

Root: John Griesse

Vandergriff: Sarah Lindsay, Kelly Thomas (also Root)

Woodland: Joseph McClung, Caleb Pond

Our annual Education Expo, which is sponsored by the good folks at the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce, will be held on Friday, August 14 at 11:30 am at the Tyson Track Center. The Chamber has hosted this event in various forms since the year before parallel parking was invented, and it's always a great time for teachers and chamber members. We greatly appreciate our good friends at the Chamber for helping us kick off yet another school year!

New leaders are in place around the district, including new superintendent Vicki Thomas, who has been on the job since July 1. New principals include Rhonda Moore at Root School and Kristen Scanlon at The Owl Creek School. Rhonda was the interim principal at Owl Creek last year, and Kristen served as Federal programs coordinator. Owl Creek also has two new assistant principals, Tracy Bratton and David McClure.

So far, the 2009 calendar has not been short on surprises. Here's hoping the surprises that await us are of the "Wow, that's great!" variety, instead of the "Uh oh" type!

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