

# Editing

## 2011 KSPA Regional Competition

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### Description

You are a staff member of Ad Astra High School's newspaper staff. Your editor has asked you to edit the following story.

### School Info

Name: Ad Astra High School  
Location: Aspera, Kansas  
Mascot: Box Turtles  
Enrollment: 850 (grades 9-12)  
School Colors: Green & Gold  
Yearbook: The Honeybee  
Newspaper: The Star

### Contest Info

This is an **on-site** contest.

Please attach **your assigned contest number** in the upper right-hand corner of your entry.

**Do not** put your name on the entry. If you do, your entry will be disqualified.

Students are not to request help or advice from anyone other than the KSPA Executive Director. All work must be that of the contestant.

### Assignment

You are to edit the newspaper story on the following pages for A.P. style, accuracy, libel, attribution, correct paragraphing, grammar, spelling and redundancy. Correct copy editing symbols should be used. Make corrections above the line containing the error. Do not rewrite the story. Students should edit in pencil. Students may use dictionary, thesaurus and A.P. style manuals.



## Story

Astra High will be closed next week, February 28-Mar.4 as repair crews repair the “problem areas” in the roof of the main building which collapsed due to the weight of 2 feet of snow from a freak February snowstorm on Wednesday.

Principal Hudnall Browne said the roof collapsed in two places and that snow was sent cascading into Mr. Wyeths artroom, Mrs. Thistlebottom’s English room, and Mr. McCullough’s American History room. All those rooms are on the first floor of the three story school building that was built in 1953.

Browne said damages were being assessed and that he didn’t as of now have an estimate of clean up costs. He estimated that the costs could run into the “10’s of thousands of dollars.”

“All this is just mind-boggling” said Browne said. “We’ve got roofers making temporary patches to the roof and clean up crews literally digging snow out of classrooms. This is a 76 year old building, so I don’t know what this means structurally. I wish I had answers.”

Browne had one answer: School will resume on Monday March 7th 2012 irregardless of the work needed on the building Browne said. “Even if we have to have classes at my house, we’ll have classes on that Monday,” said Browne.

The Aspera Board Education (A.B.E..) will be meeting in emergency session tonight. They will discuss how much emergency funding can be made available immediately on an emergency basis to the school board president Ed Eucate said.

“We will be deciding how much funding we can provide now on an emergency basis at 7<sup>th</sup> the present moment,” Eucate said. “This is a monumental problem that has to be dealt with immediately,”

Officials apparently are looking into claims of faulty and shoddy work that Summus Roofing and repair did earlier this year that most likely led to the roof collapse. They apparently inadvertently broke the joists that weakened the roof and never reported the joist incident to school officials.

Mrs. Thistlebottom said teachers had been allowed back to their classrooms. “All of this semester’s assignments are there [in the classroom] as well as grades [also in the classroom],” Thistlebottom said. “If I can’t salvage things [in the classroom], students may have to redo a month’s worth of work. I’m also worried about my autographed copy of “The Winter of Our Discontent”. I won’t know anything until I can see the room.”

Students were too worried about what and whether their work was damaged in classrooms and third floor lockers. Senior James Whistler said he was relieved that he had taken home an oil portrait he was working on of his mother. “If I hadn’t taken it home and had Mom pose for me, it would have been lost.”

This is one of the second worst snowstorms Apsersa has ever experienced on record up to this point. The 25 inches on Wednesday was exceeded only by the 29 inches recorded on April 1, 1898 and the 32 inches of the “white stuff” found on the ground on January 8<sup>th</sup> of 1965.