DISTRICT
Teacher Placement Days
Recently district administrators attended placement days held at University of Central Missouri and at University of Missouri - Columbia. The event at UCM, Teacher Placement Day, was held on March 15th. Students from UCM and teachers from the surrounding area attended to make contact with school districts in hopes of securing positions for the 2017-18 school year. This year several students were looking for perspective district in which to student teach during the Spring 2018 semester and introduced themselves to district administrators. The MU event, MOJOE, was held on April 4th. Again, district administrators had the opportunity to meet prospective teachers and to share about the outstanding qualities of the Pleasant Hill R-III school and community. While the numbers at both events this year were down from previous years, the quality of the candidates seemed to be just as consistent. The events result in increased applicants for us each year.

PRIMARY SCHOOL
Recent student activities at the Primary School include the “Fire and Ice” program with the Mad Scientist; dry ice was the students’ favorite learning experience. Kindergarteners enjoyed field trips to Paradise Park, even in all the rainy weather. Kindergarten screenings were completed during the last two weeks of March, with a total of 159 incoming students participating. PTO purchased two “friendship benches” for our playgrounds, and Mrs. Shari Doutt has taught lessons, modeling the purpose of the benches, to all students. This time of year, teachers are emphasizing writing skills and reading and math fact fluency. They are continuing to meet with parents about academic progress and summer school recommendations. I am meeting with staff about the pacing of lessons and assessments for fourth quarter, professional development plans in NEE, and priorities for next year. A highlight for our building this week was hosting the CMAESP principals for their final meeting of the school year. Sixteen principals attended from districts such as Osceola, Wellington, Warsaw, Cole Camp, Lexington, Green Ridge, etc. for a presentation by Christie Diederich and Michele Isaman on looping classrooms and flexible seating, then they toured the building. Building staff went out of their way to welcome our visitors and display examples of students’ work. We have received numerous compliments about our culture, student behavior, and focus on learning.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Spotlight on Mrs. Martin’s Class
Students had a great time learning with this real life PBL designed by Mrs. Martin. Each team had to admit patients into the ER, keep their chart and document their care. Students had to perform procedures on their patients and determine the correct diagnosis of those patients. Using accurate measurements of mass and volume students performed brain surgery, oral procedures and even administered vaccines! The students learned a great deal and experienced how math is applied outside of the classroom as well.
SPELL IT OUT PBL IS COMPLETE!
Mrs. Albin led the PHES students in the task of installing our fence designs on Friday. The weather was beautiful and every student put in “cups” in the playground fencing to bring the winning students designs to life. Four different colorful representations of their school pride came to life as each piece was snapped in. Please drive by and see the finished products.

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
Fifth grade students put their government unit into practice by being one of the three branches of government. Each branch was given a school related situation in which to apply their branch powers and each practiced checking the powers of the other branches, as well.

Fifth grade ELA classes completed a STEM activity called Oil Spill Challenge. The students read the story “Gulf Spill Heroes” as their vocabulary story and then read “Winter’s Tail” as the main selection. Their essential question was “What are the benefits of working collaboratively?” The students worked together with few materials to rescue a pretend bird and also had to “clean up” as much of the oil spill as possible in their gulf! Then they reflected on the use of materials, their plan, and how working together was so important, just like in the Deepwater Horizon Disaster (the background of the story and the challenge).
Congratulations to the PHIS Students of the Month for April! Students were nominated by their peers for exhibiting outstanding character traits, in particular—perseverance! What a great honor to be recognized by one’s peers! Congratulations to: Brody Kohler, Reagan Donovan, Abbigail Smith, DJ Barnes, Cory German, Izabella Vavra, Ava Goodrich, Kirsten Vestal, Taylor Vaughn, Ayden Cline, Emma Dutcher, and Quincy Payne Thornton.

Congratulations to the PHIS Students of the Week! They are: Cole Betts, Ella Betts, Corina Brockman, Lawson Gonzalez, Mara Shouse, and Mariah Keagy. They were selected by teams of teachers for exhibiting character traits and doing good deeds.

Tim Green visited PHIS! He is a former defensive end in the NFL and a best-selling author. In addition to sharing his life experiences, Mr. Green shared his message of working hard and being kind to others. PHIS students read his book(s)—Unstoppable and/or Pinch Hit and engaged in activities enhancing their reading experience prior to his arrival yesterday. We thank Mrs. Arenson, our LMS, for organizing this exciting event!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

*Left:* PHMS’s choir sings the national anthem at a Missouri Maverick’s game, right down there on the ice.  *Center and Right:* Seventh-grade science learns about force in the gym by playing tug-of-war.

**Pleasant Hill Middle School**
April marks the beginning of testing season in the district. The middle school will begin with Algebra I End of Course
exams on April 21. April 26 will be the first day of the Missouri Assessment Program tests, and they will last through May 5. The schedule will alter to three two-hour blocks. Seventh graders will test in the mornings while eighth graders test in the afternoon. Six middle school students traveled to Belton on April 3 to compete in the junior edition of the Job Olympics. They won many awards and medals, including ten gold medals. Technology Student Association will travel to Rolla at the end of the month to attend their convention. Additionally, track and field has begun competing with a home meet scheduled for April 11.

Left: PHMS students earn ten gold medals at the Job Olympics in Belton. Right: The study body practices sheltering during a severe weather drill.

**HIGH SCHOOL**
High School Senior Selected for State Academic Honor

Pleasant Hill High School senior Fiona Bolte-Bradhurst has been selected an “Honorable Mention” student in the 2017 Missouri Scholars 100, a statewide program that honors 100 of Missouri’s top academic students in the graduating class of 2017.

Missouri Scholars 100 is a program sponsored by the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals. Schools across Missouri were invited to nominate candidates for this statewide recognition. The selection is based primarily on a formula using the student’s grade point average and ACT or SAT score. Each student nominated had to first meet criteria of an “Academic Decathlon,” which included ten “events” designed to assure the academic strength of the student. To meet the decathlon requirements, the student must have a minimum GPA of 3.75, a minimum ACT score of 29 or a minimum SAT score of 1,900, be ranked in the upper ten percent of the class, and have taken upper level courses in mathematics, science, English, and foreign language. The student must also have excellent attendance, be an exemplary school citizen, and be involved in the school activity program.

Phil Lewis, Executive Director of the principals’ association said, “Students who are selected to this program have taken a rigorous course of study and have maintained the highest academic standards. The Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals wants to celebrate the achievement and success of these students and their schools.”
The Junior Varsity softball team and the Varsity softball team have been recognized for outstanding scholastic achievement by the Missouri State High School Activities Association. The Junior Varsity student athletes collectively earned a 3.45 GPA, while players on the Varsity team earned a 3.53 GPA during the 2016 season.

**SPECIAL SERVICES**

Over the last month sophomores spent time reading and studying the book *Night* by Elie Weisel. Elie Weisel provides the reader with vivid descriptions of what life was like during the Holocaust having survived life in the concentration camps. Throughout the reading students identified themes and found textual evidence to support the theme. Additionally, there was emphasis on symbolism, poetry, vocabulary, and writing responses to infographics throughout the unit. The concluding lesson was students creating their own Black Out poem from a page of *Night*. After receiving a page of *Night*, students found descriptive and empowering words to create a poem that delivered a message. Any additional words were blacked out and an image was designed to reflect the mood of their poem. The following pictures display the students actively engaged in the reading and writing process of developing poetry and some completed productions.
This past month in Math the students have been working on how to read graphs, x and y axis, and taking data from surveys and putting it into a graph format. The students got in groups and made a survey for the classmates to take.

Here is an example of one of the surveys made:

What is your favorite device to use?
___ phone ___ laptop ___ Ipad ___ Kindle ___ other

How many different devices do you own?
___ 1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___ 4 ___ more

Then the students collected the data and used the information to make a graph. The students then presented their graphs. They learned what graphs would be best and how to take information and put it into a diagram or graph. They had a great time doing this!
Pleasant Hill Activities… “It’s a GREAT DAY to be a Rooster/Chick!”

Highlights:

1. **Speech and Debate**: The speech and debate team traveled William Jewell to compete this past week. Eric Humphrey finished 14th out of 95 entries. Mackenzie Beaman is officially qualified and accepted to compete in the 2017 National Individual Events Tournament of Champions. This tournament will feature many of the best performers around the nation and will be held in Liberty from May 12-14. The Speech and Debate team travels to the state tournament April 21-22.

2. **The Scholar Bowl**: Scholar Bowl took 3rd this place at their district tournament this past week. They will be travelling to Chicago soon to compete in a national competition.

3. **Rooster Golf**: The Rooster Golf team is undefeated in conference play so far this season. The team finished 3rd out of 21 schools at the Ray-Pec Tournament last Friday. (Only 3 strokes behind 1st place finisher Rockhurst!)

4. **Rooster Baseball**: The Roosters have gotten off to a strong start this season with a 5-3 record. They've played well defeating conference rival Odessa last Thursday and experiencing a tough loss at Battle HS in Columbia Saturday. They have a very busy week this week hosting Harrisonville Monday, home to Oak Grove Tuesday and then travel to Grandview Thursday, Friday and Saturday this week.

5. **Chicks Soccer**: The Chicks are continuing to play well. They are undefeated at this point with a SCA Cup Championship in their pocket. The Chicks had two wins last week vs. Excelsior Springs and Lincoln Prep. This week they play Center at home (Monday), at Oak Grove Tuesday and at Notre Dame DeSion Thursday.

6. **Pleasant Hill Track**: The track team competed well this past week. The Roosters and Chicks hosted a quad with Summit Christian, Grain Valley and Holden. They participated in the Kearney Invitational and the Holden meet last Friday. The HS team travels to Harrisonville this Thursday to participate in the Brutus Hamilton Invitational.

7. **Twitter Following!!**: Check out our group’s twitter pages at they progress through the Spring sports/activities season…
   - @PHillgolfteam
   - @PHillbaseball
   - @PHillgirlsocc
   - @roosterdebate
   - @PHillffa
   - @philldeca