While the 2016-2017 school year is coming to a close, there is much planning taking place for the 2017-2018 year! Last week district staff members met to finalize plans for District Residency/Enrollment event which will take place on Wednesday, July 26th and Thursday, July 27th at Pleasant Hill High School. The event is when all families enrolled in the district bring their current water, gas, or electric bill to prove they indeed reside in the Pleasant Hill R-III School District and they take care of all of their back to school needs for all buildings in one location. The committee finalized the plans for our second year of online forms through our Student Information System for registration. Improvements for this year’s event include more personnel to help with the online registration and submission of online forms, which was an area where people needed more help than anticipated last year.

The group discussed the timeline for when information would be sent out to families over the next few month. The committee also reviewed the set-up in the gym and determined ways to help lines run more smoothly. We look forward to the annual event and meeting all of the families in the district. Mark your calendar for July 26th and July 27th for District Residency/Enrollment!

The Parents As Teachers Advisory Council met at the Primary School this week. PAT coordinator Brenda Koval and parent educator Melissa Roach served 231 families and 278 children this year with home visits, group activity nights, and annual screenings. They also coordinate visits from area preschools, kindergarten screenings and our Kindergarten Round-Up each spring. Celebrations at the Primary School this month include Earth Day, National Library Week, National Administrative Professionals’ Day, and our retirement reception. Students enjoyed spring activities centered around Easter themes; some classes had chicks hatching, and another is starting a “caterpillar home.” They are preparing to take the final Discovery Education benchmark assessments in reading and math starting next week. Kindergarteners are practicing with great enthusiasm for their spring program on May 2. Staff enjoyed professional development on our last half-day, putting on their “walking shoes” to find evidence of our NEE indicators throughout the building. We compiled lists of great examples of academic language, cognitive engagement, positive relationships, and critical thinking/problem-solving skills. Staff also completed a school culture survey, to compare our results against responses from last spring. We are working on class lists for Kindergarten Round-Up and “Swap Day.”
Mrs. Cook created a PBL where her students had to use their knowledge of mass and volume to find the kryptonite antidote at the Superhero Scientist Academy. Students had to measure the correct amount of different liquid ingredients as well as weigh the exact amount of dry ingredients. After trying Plan A and Plan B, students created their own kryptonite antidote by writing a recipe to save the world!

MAP Testing is almost done!
Students have been working very hard to do their best and show what they know on their MAP testing this month. Mrs. Zimmerschied does an excellent job of organizing and proctoring the computer lab as a testing site. Teachers assist and the process goes very smoothly with the support of the technology department as well.

Congratulations to the PHIS Students of the Week: Raelynn Carter, Oscar Garcia, Elizabeth Vohs, Aubrey Ruona-Magill, Dylan Jackson, and Jacob Liley. They were selected by teachers for demonstrating the character trait, perseverance. We are so proud of them!

Students were entertained by Mac from the Missouri Mavericks! During this assembly, students listened to a motivational message from Mavericks’ rep, Mr. Tim Vieira about working hard, being dedicated, and not giving up. This
message pertained to all goals students are working toward as well as persevering on the MAP test. Mr. Twenter, our band director, and Mac squared off in a friendly hockey competition in which students cheered them on! T-shirts were randomly thrown into the crowd and both grade levels took a picture with Mac before it was over. Many thanks to Mr. Twenter for organizing this assembly!

PHIS students began MAP testing April 20th. All testing is completed on-line with the use of various universal tools. Students are working hard, demonstrating the knowledge and skills they have acquired toward their learning objectives. Using scoring guides as a tool, there are daily drawings related to positive work/effort; we thank our Positive School Climate Committee for providing the gift cards. Students will also participate in a MAP reward party May 12. It’s a great day to be a PHIS Rooster or Chick!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Left: Mrs. Dowdy’s PE class works on soccer kicking and conditioning as they play a version of ball tag. Center: The hallways are always decorated with art from Mrs. McManis’s students. Right: Teachers used Professional Development time in April 13 to review the current advisory structure and find ways to improve its purpose and organization.

**Pleasant Hill Middle School**

Technology Student Association is in Rolla Monday and Tuesday to visit the convention and competition. Ms. Pierce and Mrs. Humphrey took seven students in our first visit to UMR. Algebra I students completed the End of Course Exam last Friday. Wednesday 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. The hours will rotate during the eight-day schedule so that students do not consistently miss the same hours for testing. Track and field will hold its final home meet on April 26. PHMS is planning a Community Service Day for May 12, where students will leave the building and improve the
community through a project.

Left: April 20 was National Poetry Day, so Mrs. Lally organized poem-in-your-pocket which allowed students and staff to share their favorite poems throughout the day. Right: Mrs. Fender’s seventh-grade class works on MAP practice questions and tools to orient them to the testing format.

**High School**

The Social Studies Department planned a field trip to the National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame for all 9th graders on April 19, 2017. The teachers incorporated a historical lesson by touring the Hall of Fame. Our students learned how agriculture touches the lives of every living person, from the food we eat to the impact on the economy. The goal of the trip was to highlight the importance of agriculture and help them understand and appreciate the influence of agriculture.

This picture shows our students at the newly re-opened 1887 Morris Train Depot.

Our students were also able to meet with a bee keeper. Not only did they learn about the habitat of bees along with their importance to food production, they were also able to hold queen bees as they were moving them into new hives.
SPECIAL SERVICES

In Co-Teaching English Language Arts IV
Students are finishing up their last few weeks by reading Animal Farm. This novel deals with an assortment of propaganda so the students have been learning about how it's used and found throughout their community and on social media. For the past week, students have been brainstorming a product they'd like to create or an idea they'd like to promote. Students then began creating their propaganda on a poster. Each poster had to have a slogan and a type of propaganda (name calling, hidden fear, cardstacking, repetition, etc.) as well as an image to display. The students will begin presenting their propaganda items to their class this week.

High School Algebra B - Mr. Smith and Mrs. Felden
The students in Algebra 1B are performing operation of Scientific Notations. The objective of this lesson is for the students to understand how to write each number in standard and scientific notation form. The students used scientific notation to choose units of appropriate size for measurements of very large or very small quantities. The expectation is for the students to understand that a positive exponent is considered a very large number and a negative exponent is considered a very small number. The students will use this basic scientific notation concept and transfer this skill to solve more challenging operations of scientific notation using multiplication and division. The students first practiced using scientific notation in both standard and written form by teaming with a partner and playing board races. The students were able to discuss with their partner how to solve the overall problem by determining whether the scientific notation is a positive or negative number, depending on the placement of the zeros, where to correctly place the decimal, and problem solving incorrect answers. Last, we asked the students to use their chromebooks to participate in a Kahoot activity to review more scientific notation concepts. The kahoot activity was used as a formative assessment to check for the understanding of individual students over basic scientific notation concepts. The formative assessment showed that the students were able to perform basic scientific notation concepts 80% of the time.
Links for Kahoot

https://create.kahoot.it/#quiz/002d76f9-7366-473a-8a54-364daca8a871

Pleasant Hill Activities… “It’s a GREAT Day to be a Rooster/Chick!”

Highlights:

1. **Speech and Debate:** Fernanda Sierra earned a 16th place finish at state this past week in poetry. Alex Whittington earned a 3rd place medal at state while competing in humorous interpretation.

2. **The Scholar Bowl:** Scholar Bowl is heading to their national tournament this coming weekend in Chicago. They will have warm-up rounds Friday evening with the tournament on Saturday.

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!) They have a tri-meet on Tuesday involving Ray-Pec and head to Butler on Friday.

4. **Rooster Baseball:** The Roosters earned a big win last week vs. the O'Hara Celtics. They will play at home Monday vs. the Marshall Owls and then on the road Tuesday at Harrisonville. They will host Excelsior Springs on Thursday. With two home games this week, come out and check out the Roosters baseball team! The district tournament will begin on May 13th at Odessa.

5. **Chicks Soccer:** The Chicks have a busy week coming up with games vs. Sacred Heart and Harrisonville twice (Tuesday at Hville and Thursday hosting). They came back from a 3-0 deficit last Thursday evening at Rock Bridge HS to tie the game. They lost late on penalty kicks, but should be very proud of their performance against a big school like Rock Bridge! The district tournament will begin on May 16th at Pleasant Hill.

6. **Band:** The Concert Band earned a 1st place finish and earned a Superior rating at the Music in the Parks St. Louis Regional competition which featured bands from Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Indiana & Iowa. The group had a great time visiting the City Museum and Six Flags while on the trip.

7. **Pleasant Hill Track:** The track team sent four athletes to the Kansas Relays this past weekend. Olivia Ferdig represented Pleasant Hill in the 100 meter dash. The 4X200 women's relay team of Olivia Ferdig, Caitlin O'Hanlon, Alex Jackson and Brianna Curtis finished brought home a 12th place finish at the event! In talking with a couple of the girls, the event was surreal and exciting for them! MRVC Conference will be held at Excelsior Springs on May 6th. Districts will be at Belton this year on May 13th.
8. Twitter Following!! Check out our group’s twitter pages as they progress through the Spring sports/activities season...
@PHillgolfteam @PHillbaseball @PHillgirlsocc @roosterdebate @PHillff @philldeca

**FACILITIES**

The Pleasant Hill R-III District Safety Committee met on April 20, 2017. Members present at the meeting included a member from the community, secretaries, building level administrators, a representative from the district nursing staff, representatives from the technology department, and central office administrators. The main topics centered around the end of the year procedures.