DISTRICT

Professional Development at Central Office

In the Pleasant Hill School District, we are fortunate to have two staff members, Ms. Veronica Love and Ms. Linda Gassaway, who are certified to lead the Mandt System training for our employees. Mandt is a board approved restraint training. Individuals from each building are trained in Mandt, so if an incident occurs, there are individuals with expertise to handle difficult situations. The main goal of this program is to create environments where adults help students to de-escalate through non-physical intervention. The program is designed to treat the individuals involved with dignity and respect in a situation that is highly emotional. Annually training must be renewed so staff are aware of the latest techniques. The district’s trainers must go through re-training every two years to stay abreast of the latest trends to provide safe practices for our students and staff. Mandt System training helps to ensure a conducive learning environment in all of our buildings.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

There is so much to celebrate in the month of April! April is Math Education Month, National Poetry Month, National School Library Media Month, and we will celebrate National Library Week April 11-15 and Secretaries’ Day on April 27.

Our NED assembly was a big success, as always. Students enjoyed the dynamic performance, and staff members emphasize the NED message for the rest of the year: Never give up, Encourage others, and Do your best. The sale of yo-yos for the week following the performance funds this assembly.

Our 1st. grade performance, “Squirm”, under the direction of Ms. Aly Oparnico, brought a packed audience to the Performing Arts Center right before spring break. Mrs. Julie Smith displayed first grade art work for families to admire and take home.

Area preschools have scheduled tours of the Primary School this month for incoming kindergarteners. Teacher request forms will be available online and in the office from April 14-22.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

This week at the ES students are participating in the Amazing Race Learning Experience. Classes start each day with a video clue that leads them to their challenge envelope. Inside the envelope they find two academic challenges for the day; one for ELA and one for math. Students work cooperatively to find the
answer to these challenges. Once they have found the solution, they receive a sticker for our school-wide chart, stamp for their class suitcase and a letter to solve the mystery puzzle. Each of the challenges was created to reflect the rigor of the state assessment proficient and advanced-level descriptors. So, while the Amazing Race is engaging and fun for students; it provides meaningful practice for the state assessment. Third and fourth graders will take the state assessment beginning April 11th.

Throughout the building, students are engaged in problem based learning activities, art-infused projects and our budding botanists are gardening in the outdoor lab. Here are a few examples:

**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

Congratulations to this week's Students of the Week! They are: Ellie Shull, Lilly Gross, Lillie Burgess, Bailey Burnett, Carissa Ginther and Emmalee Thaller. They were recognized by their teachers for exhibiting outstanding character traits and deeds! We are so proud of them!

Fourth quarter’s character trait focus is Perseverance. In the Morning Motivator assembly, students discussed what Perseverance “looks like” and “sounds like”. They generated the following ideas: not giving up, trying hard even when obstacles are against you, doing your best, reaching goals, trying again if you don’t succeed the first time, “I think I can!” and “Don’t give up!” Perseverance is the criteria that students used when nominating a peer for Student of the Month. This is an outstanding honor--Congratulations to the PHIS Students of the Month for April: Hannah South, Jay Cooper, Easton Roe, Brook Shifflett, Carly Long, Ella Weber, Brenden Grego, Lillie Burgess, Madelyn Davis, Kennedy Donovan, Delaney Schuler, Lane Brattin and Cameron Orrick. We are so proud of them!

PHIS students celebrated STEM Week (Science - Technology - Engineering -
Mathematics). Our scientists participated in hands-on lab activities throughout the first week of March. Some activities included math magic problems, soda and Mentos experiments, egg drop experiments and building bridges with pennies. Students collaborated together, brainstormed and problem solved. The following link provides insight into our week: https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=-h8XxOsPCHI. Enjoy!

Our 5th and 6th graders were invited to participate in a book promotion titled, Edible Books! Students were challenged to create a display of one of their favorite books using only non-perishable food items. Students completed these creations outside of school and proudly displayed them in our library. Students' creative juices flowed; we have amazing artists! Congratulations to all students that participated and to our winners!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

*Introduction to Algebra and Math 7 highlights from the classrooms…*

Writing and graphing equations are abilities being developed for current and later math courses. Students are learning that slope can be determined in multiple ways and that ordered pairs can be used to find the intercepts of the line being graphed. These are used to construct functions to model relationships between quantities.

Students can then use the functions and graphs to create arguments about situations and to show various combinations of quantities to either prove or disprove their arguments. Such as the cost of sending various numbers of students on a field trip or activity. They can then show that the trip/activity is feasible or not and then adjust the quantities to show the desired result if available.

Students are improving their ability to create equations and inequalities by using variables to represent quantities in a real-world context and mathematical problems. Seventh Grade Math students further their understanding of
inequalities with an activities that allows them create as many inequalities as they could for the practical problem given by only using numbers from 0 to 20. They could use all operations within the inequality but the numbers could only be used once. This activity allowed students to practice problem solving by combining different numbers and operations while following order of operations. Students critiqued others thinking and created arguments for determining if possible solutions were correct or where errors were occurring and how to correct them.

**HIGH SCHOOL**
Student Honors and Awards:

High School Senior Selected for State Academic Honor

Pleasant Hill High School senior Cheyenne Long has been selected an “Honorable Mention” student in the 2016 Missouri Scholars 100, a statewide program that honors 100 of Missouri’s top academic students in the graduating class of 2016. The announcement was made by Dr. Paul Canaan, principal at Pleasant Hill High School.

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.”

**Special Services**

**Speech**

**Nathan Wood**

Speech-Language Pathologists utilize a variety of treatment strategies to help students of all ages achieve their communication goals and milestones. A popular approach that is often is used with young children is called the Floortime Model. This approach is typically used to treat the communication deficits found in children with autism, but it's facets can be applied in numerous contexts. This model involves the incorporation of structured, therapeutic learning targets into a child's natural play. The approach encourages educators, therapists, and parents to engage children literally at their play level. Floortime aims to help children reach six developmental milestones crucial emotional and intellectual growth.

These include:

- Self-regulation and interest in the world
Intimacy, or engagement in human relations
Two-way communication
Complex communication
Emotional ideas
Emotional thinking

**Primary**
**Ms. Kay & Ms. Underwood's Second Grade Co-Teaching**

Common Core Standard: CC.2.MD.8 Work with time and money.
In Ms. Kay and Ms. Underwood's second grade co-teaching classroom, students are learning to work with money. Students have learned the name of each coin, as well as the individual values. They have been practicing adding various amounts together and solving word problems using their new knowledge about money. In this activity, students went on an Easter egg hunt throughout the classroom. Each egg held a different amount of coins and dollar bills. Students were allowed to collect three eggs each and were asked to add the amount of money that they had collected in their eggs. Once students had the amount added correctly, they were allowed to shop at the classroom candy store, where each product had a different price on it. Students did really well when figuring out what and how much they could afford to buy. This was a fun opportunity for students to put their new skills to work!

**Elementary**
**Co Teacher 4th grade-Carey Armstrong**
Students in Mrs. Smothers’ and Mrs. Armstrong's co-teaching class used English language arts and artistic skills to create and assemble story quilts.

Our class read a short story called “Apples to Oregon” in which a family moves west in hopes of gaining more land. Students learned what westward travel was like in the 1800's and that quilts were used for warmth as well as a way for families to tell stories with symbols and pictures.

While reading the story, students took notes on our skill of cause and effect. At the conclusion of the story, each child chose a cause and effect situation to illustrate on their quilt.
The activity also supported our social studies curriculum unit of Westward Expansion.

Intermediate
Kayla Heishman

This lesson was taught in a co-teaching 6th grade math class. The unit of study was equations and inequalities meeting 
CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.6.EE.A.2 The objective of the lesson was “I can write, read and evaluate expressions that contain variables.”
The why of the lesson was “So I can evaluate expressions and solve for the variable”. This content was covered in Chapter 8 of Go Math! We have been covering Chapter 8 material since early March, and the students were tested over the material this week. The students were tested on Monday, and depending on their test score, were entered into our “Math Final Four” or “Sweet 16” tournaments. In order to qualify for the Math Final Four, the student was to score a 100% on the Chapter 8 test. The Sweet 16 tournament requirement was at least a score of 80%. On Tuesday, the students received their tests back and were able to look at their scores. Following that, the students were allowed to participate in stations, or make test corrections for practice. The students that met the requirement for either tournament had a personal choice of re-testing on Wednesday for a better score. The new test was the same format as the old test, but numbers and words were changed. If they chose not to re-test, then they were to research an activity they enjoy that involves math and write a paper about it. The students that did not meet the requirement for either tournament, then they were to retest on Wednesday. If their scores met the requirement for either tournament after retesting, then they were to be entered into the appropriate tournament. Due to testing all week, we rewarded the students with prizes and a BINGO game for the half day on Thursday. The tournament appeared to be a huge motivation tool for them to do well on their tests, and we wanted to reward them for their hard work. The strategic teacher questions were: How will I reach my goal of scoring a ____ (student sets own personal goal) ____% on the test? What action steps do I need to take? What questions can I ask of my teachers and peers to help me succeed?”
In 7th grade we just finished working with one and two step equations. The majority of the students did really well with this concept and after working with it for several weeks, feel much more confident when working with these types of problems.

The next topic the students are working on is inequalities. They recently did an activity where they were given four one-sided inequalities, the four operations signs (+,-,x,), and the numbers 0-20. They were then asked to come up with as many solutions as they could using each number only once and at least two operations. They really seemed to enjoy this activity.
The eighth graders have been working with slope, slope-intercept form, domains, ranges, functions, and graphing equations on a coordinate plane. They were having a lot of good discussions in class and helping each other understand the concepts better. They struggled most with the graphing and work with this for several days. They just took a test over this and the majority of the class has mastered the concepts so far. We are getting ready for part two of the test where we are giving them different forms of information and they have to graph and write equations from the given information. These concepts include having a point and $y$-intercept, having a point and slope, having two points and finding slope and $y$-intercept, and finding $x$ and $y$-intercepts of a line.

High
Co Teacher- Adam Hutzell
Class: Geometry     Objective: Finding Volume of Shapes

Earlier this month, in Mr. Stahl and Mr. Hutzell's Geometry class started working on finding the volume of many different types of shapes. We started the unit with the students bringing in different containers and proving to us how much volume their containers held. The students came up with many creative ways to prove their theories. We then introduced the formulas for volume and the students then had to mathematically prove the volume of their containers. They agreed that being able to plug numbers into formulas was much easier and quicker than guessing and estimating. As a follow up to this activity, we worked on finding the volume of landmarks in the community such as the pool and the weather station ball. The students really worked hard on learning the formulas and did well on the chapter test.

PLEASANT HILL ACTIVITIES… “IT’S A GREAT DAY TO BE A ROOSTER/CHICK!”
Highlights:

1. Chicks Soccer: The Chicks soccer program has enjoyed a nice ride for the beginning of the season. Coach Iantorno and Coach Ortiz have the girls firing on all cylinders. They’ve gone 4-0 in their first four games this season to include a clean sweep through the Summit Christian Academy Classic Tournament. The girls won the championship game of the tournament this past Friday by the score of 2-1 over Summit Christian. The Chicks play this week on Monday (home; Oak Grove), Tuesday (at Center), Thursday (Home to Excelsior Springs) and Friday (Home to Lincoln Prep). Come out and support this awesome team!

2. The Roosters and Chicks Track teams enjoyed an excellent weekend. The Roosters placed first and the Chicks placed second in the Odessa Invitational this past Friday! The teams host Grain Valley, Holden and Summit Christian at home this Tuesday at Eklund Field. The varsity teams will compete in Kearney and the JV squad in Holden on Friday of this week.

3. Rooster Baseball: Coach Maid and Coach Brayton have the Rooster baseball team moving in a positive direction. This past weekend, they swept a double header against the Clinton Cardinals (11-1 & 6-0). They currently have five wins and two losses on the young season. They play in Oak Grove on Monday evening and in Warrensburg Tuesday (v Warrensburg; 7pm), Wednesday (v Holden; 5pm) and Thursday (v Boonville; 5pm) for the West Central Missouri baseball tournament. The next home game is scheduled for Tuesday April 12th vs. Grain Valley.
4. The Rooster golf team is playing very well lately. Monday they are participating in the Ray-Pec Invitational at Country Creek. They've already brought home hardware placing 1st at the Oak Grove Tournament to start off the year. They will be playing Thursday this week at Adam's Pointe vs. Odessa in a MRVC Dual.

5. Prom is coming this week on Saturday April 9th. It is an excellent time for our upper classmen to dress to the nine's for one night of the year. This year's theme is The Great Gatsby!

We appreciate everyone's attendance and support for our programs. Thank you for the positive reflection within our community and at our events. As always... “It's a great day to be a Rooster/Chick!”

**TECHNOLOGY**

The Technology Department has been working through an internal audit of data security. As a result of the review process, there are many changes that will be necessary to make in order to make our district data and resources more secure. Many of the changes are not visible to users of technology within the district, but a few of the changes will affect students and staff in their day-to-day use of technology. Presentations are being held in the month of April to give a brief overview of the changes. As the improvements are implemented, specific information regarding the details of each change will be sent to patrons along with directions and steps necessary for students and staff to follow once changes are in place. Many improvements will take place over the summer so back to school work days will be used to help train staff as well.

**FACILITIES**

*Signs that spring is in the air!*

You know that spring is in the air when you hear the sounds of mowers running on our campus locations. Buildings and grounds personnel, Paul Smith, Randy Greufe, and Ed Norvell began mowing as temperatures started to warm up. In addition to mowing, these individuals also care for the landscaping of the district which includes trimming the hedges and trees and maintaining the flower beds throughout the district.