SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER CONTINUE CURRICULUM WORK

On November 16th, grades 5 - 12 social studies teachers met at Central Office to continue the curriculum work they began over the summer. The teachers discussed the non-negotiables and instructional practices to incorporate into lessons to address student engagement, academic vocabulary, and to foster positive teacher-student relationships. This collaborative conversation was followed by building groups working together to add to and refine the pacing guides and lesson plans currently in their curriculum. The social studies teachers also have the opportunity to purchase additional instructional resources to help support their courses. Each building’s teachers are working with their principal to finalize the materials for social studies department. This professional day allowed teachers to make a significant addition to the documents already saved into the district's social studies curriculum. It was a very productive day, which will benefit students and instruction in the social studies classrooms. The social studies teachers are a hard-working and dedicated group!

PRIMARY SCHOOL

PS teachers are being very creative with strategies to keep students focused on learning during this holiday season. Posted around the building, visitors will find Mooseltoe, Christmas trees decorated with digraph ornaments, elves, and letters to Santa. 2nd grade students are working on their “how-to” writing, and 1st graders are writing personal narratives. Kindergarteners are hosting grandparents on various days, making gingerbread houses, and learning 3-D shapes. They enjoyed a day with 6th grade students, who did literacy activities with kindergarten classes based on “Olive, the Other Reindeer.” PTO and our librarian, Tricia Beaman, sponsored the annual Holiday Shop and Scholastic Book Fair, always popular this season. “The Bill Chill”, performed by 170 2nd graders, was a big hit, and a great introduction of our new music teacher, Samantha Baldwin, to the PH community. Teachers enjoyed a day of professional development earlier this month, working in teams with teachers from the ES and IS. Now we are collaborating to review results of our Discovery Education benchmark assessments and complete the NEE Units of Instruction. Happy Chris-moose from everyone at the Primary School.
**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
**Spotlight on Mrs. Cook’s Third Grade Class**

These Third Graders have been learning about behavioral and structural adaptations in animals. Their final project required them to research two animals and morph them into a new species. Then, after researching two habitats, they found the home that would best support their new animal. Lastly, the students used the iPad App - PicCollage to create their animal. A fun and creative way to apply their new knowledge.

Last week the PHES Rooster Choir consisting of 3rd and 4th grade students performed for their peers and the public. Mrs. Norman has been practicing this group has been practicing before school for many month and delivered a stellar concert. We are so proud of the hard work, talent and beautiful music that was shared.

**FOOD DRIVE WINNERS**
The Student Leadership Team was successful in their endeavors and the Elementary School won the Bank Challenge. A $500 check was presented and will be donated to the Angel Tree in the schools name. Great work!

**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

Congratulations to the PHIS Students of the Month for December. They were nominated by their peers for exhibiting the character trait, responsibility. They are: Madison Powers, Kylie Sullivan, Carter Szajnuk, Natalie Morris, Makynna Woods, Jackson Shuler, Riley Hawkins, Emelia Proudfit, Jolyn Blake, Braidy Moore, Brooke Shifflett, Avery Lawrence, and Natalie Morris.
Congratulations to the PHIS Students of the Week! They were selected for exhibiting outstanding character traits and doing good deeds. They are: Riley Hawkins, Lydia Bears, Jonah Anderson, Ryan Canaan, Mallory Crooks, and Bo Daniel.

DARE graduation was held December 1 in order to celebrate the hard-work and dedication 5th grade students put forth during the ten week course taught by DARE officer, Deputy Eddleman. The curriculum teaches students about self-awareness and management, responsible decision making, understanding others, relationships and communication skills, and handling responsibilities and challenges. Students culminated their lessons by writing a DARE essay. The following students were selected as DARE essay winners: Addison Smith, Casey Carey, Chase Brattin, Reagan Beaman, Lauren Weiss, and Jack Ailshire. We congratulate them and all our students! We are very proud of their achievements!

Sixth grade students have been engaged in a project based learning (PBL) unit titled the Angel Tree. They are reading the book, The Angel Tree by Daphne Benedis-Grab; spending time building their reading skills using the Seven Keys to Comprehension. Additionally, students adopted children from the local Angel Tree and planned fundraising activities in order to raise money. During the PBL, students set a budget, researched items and shopped at Wal-mart. They are excited about making someone else’s holiday a little better! Students also spent time giving back by:

- Doing crafts and reading at the Primary School with Kindergarten students
- Stuffing food bags at the Optimist Club
- Organizing donations at the thrift store (lay clergy)
- Packing bags at the food pantry (lay clergy)
- Cleaned the fairground (City of Pleasant Hill)
- Helped clean and organized the museum
- Visited children at Kids Inc.
- Visited the Pleasant Hill rehabilitation center
- Visited students at the Elementary school
Above: From plastic to plywood to hardwood! The students have watched the evolution of the gym floor each day as they wait before school. The maple hardwood was completely installed last Friday.

The middle school approaches the holiday break teaching and learning to finish first semester. We are hopeful to be back in the gym when we return. PE classes have continued using alternate locations to hold class. Winter choir and band performances have begun as students show off what they have been practicing this fall. The district will host the annual spelling bee in January, so building participants are being determined. Seventh grade science is well into their Project Lead the Way curriculum this quarter. Students are studying electricity using multimeters to test materials rather than just reading about conductors and insulators.

Left: Mrs. Dowdy instructs first Hour PE on the proper use of weight room equipment. Middle: Students watch as water saturates a model during the career fair. Right: The middle school chamber choir and men’s choir perform at Crown Center last week.

High School

Pleasant Hill High School junior, Gennavieve Wrobel recently earned the honor of 2017 Missouri All-State Orchestra First Chair oboe player.

The Graphic Design classes paired up with Mrs. Dollins to design a poster to advertise the Holiday Choir Concert on December 12, 2016. Each graphic design student created an original poster to submit to Mrs. Dollins. The winner of the challenge is Andrea Allen.
In Mrs. Hyatt's Preschool Speech and Language Class, students expanded their vocabulary and sound inventory by learning about farm animals and the sounds they make. Students used farm animal masks to practice making the animal sounds, describe using color words, and apply information from a farm animal storybook.

Preschool students celebrate a “Speech Graduation” for their friend who achieved his Speech Development Goals.

Objective: I will apply the appropriate operation in order to solve a problem.

Students are using resources and assistive technology in order to access the curriculum. Above students are solving multiplication problems. Some of the above, are looking for a pattern and determining the rule to apply to the numerical sequence. Others are solving basic facts using a multiplication chart. And still another is multiplying a 2 digit by 1 digit multiplication problem which involves regrouping.
PLEASANT HILL ACTIVITIES… “IT’S A GREAT DAY TO BE A ROOSTER/CHICK!”

Highlights:

1. This week: The winter sports season is underway with a lot of excitement and high expectations for our athletic and academic teams!
   - The Rooster wrestling program competes at Smithville on Wednesday evening and at the annual Holiday Tournament in Harrisonville this weekend, Friday and Saturday.
   - The Chicks basketball team heads to Platte County (Note: V/JV) on Tuesday and then hosts Neosho on Thursday (Note: Varsity/Cteam)
   - The Roosters basketball team hosts Belton in a Varsity/JV matchup Tuesday evening this week.
   - The speech and debate team will be hosting their own tournament this coming Saturday at PHHS.

2. Check out Coach Messinger on the Sonic Locker Room Show on Tuesday at 4:15pm on 1030am radio. www.soniclockerroom.com The program is aired weekly for Pleasant Hill. Past shows are archived on their website. Just click on the Rooster logo!

3. Instrumental Music: Congratulations to Gennavieve Wrobel for earning 1st chair oboe in the Missouri All-State Orchestra! An awesome accomplishment!

TECHNOLOGY

Based on data security audits being performed by the state and the resulting reports from DESE, the technology department has been working with the technology committee to prepare for the necessary adjustments to the district network and technology practices. “These changes are necessary to increase the security level of student and staff personal information.” Completion is nearing on one of the first phases of the data security updates that will be visible by users. Later this week an email will be sent out to all staff with instructions for enrolling in the program that will manage automated password resets. Password resets for Google and the network will require updating every 120 calendar days. This change will require that staff enroll in the program by December 22nd using a series of security questions that are typical of setting up an online account. Once all staff members have enrolled, staff will receive notification on December 9th to update their password. The password update will change the password for the network and for Google meaning that users’ passwords will still be the same for both accounts. Detailed instructions for enrollment in the program will be included in the email that will be sent to all staff.

FACILITIES

The maintenance staff has been working diligently the last several weeks trying to get the campuses winter ready. Staff members have been delivering ice melt to the buildings; getting snow blowers up and running for the upcoming winter; winterizing the various concession stands; aerating practice and game fields and campuses; applying winter fertilizer to practice and game fields and campuses; winterizing the irrigation systems; taking down fall sports windscreens as well making equipment ready for snow removal on the trucks and tractors.