DISTRICT
Recent Professional Development Held

On Friday, February 12th, the mathematics teachers in grades five through twelve participated in a fourth day of professional development on utilizing project based learning (PBL). They spent time reviewing PBL, sharing their most recent PBLs delivered to students, and planning and writing additional PBLs for the remainder of the school year. The teachers worked hard to plan classroom activities to make mathematics authentic for their students, and the results at the end of the day were well worthwhile.

Also on Friday, February 12th, the district counselors met and discussed topics related to guidance across the district. They then followed their regular meeting with webinars related to the Missouri Assessment Program Grade Level Assessments and End of Course Exams. The counselors are a vital piece to the success of our state mandated testing. They do a phenomenal job preparing students and staff each year for testing. They ensure the consistency in test security and administration. The counselors across the district do an outstanding job each year to make sure our district-wide testing is completed without issue.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

February has been an amazing month at the PS: Jump Rope for Heart, Valentine parties, staff safety training, tornado drills, and Discovery Education assessments. Spring is fast approaching, bringing third quarter conferences, field trips, leprechauns, kindergarten screenings, Grandparents’ Days, and Dollars and Donuts with Dads. We have been fortunate that weather is allowing for lots of outdoor play and exercise. Our big excitement is preparing for Dr. Seuss Week, Feb. 29-March 4! Teachers are planning reading and math activities using Dr. Seuss stories and themes, and of course, we’ll all be dressing in costumes.
Elementary School
Here’s a snapshot of what is happening at the Elementary School.

➢ Our art teacher, Nicole Albin, has partnered with the Nelson-Atkins Art Museum for an annual field trip. During this field trip, the fourth graders are introduced to visual thinking strategies. Docents allow students to express their feelings and opinions openly allowing students to recognize that there isn't really a wrong answer when observing and discussing art. Student tours have four stops and at each stop they are engaged in an activity to help their brains deeply. For example, at one stop during the tour, students are asked to observe the entire gallery, sit and draw their favorite piece and then explain what they believe the piece is used for in that culture. Docents then take the time to address the student's efforts and explain the culture. There is nothing like going to the museum. Team 4A went to the Nelson last week and team 4B will enjoy the art gallery this Friday. This field trip is a favorite for students and teachers.

➢ Five times throughout the school year, Mrs. Albin invites all students and family to an evening of fun, learning and creativity. The group has created sculptures, paintings, artist inspired work and mixed media work. This time together allows for the art teacher to share and also connect with the families of her students. Families have the chance to create and spend time together. Our most recent Family Art Night was held last week.

➢ Under the direction of the Reading and Writing Committee, we are gearing up for Read Across America Week. February 29th-March 4th we will enjoy reading activities, guest readers, spirit days and conclude with a Reading Opens Doors event which has become a favorite for everyone! Here are some of the doors that have been decorated already in anticipation of this exciting week.

➢ Each day the pledge and student affirmation are lead by students. Prior to announcements, students share the book they are reading with Mrs. Herrera. Students enjoy reading with the principal and talking about their genres. By the end of this month all 326 students will have read with the principal and it will be time to start all over again!

➢ Third graders invited their families to an open house last week to view their Build a Town projects. Throughout the entire perimeter of the gym students' designs were on display. Build a Town is a project that integrates math, research, art and social studies. Our students spend several weeks planning, designing and creating their towns.
**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

We would like to congratulate the PHIS Students of the Week: Justin St. John, Ali Little, Megan Elam, Bailey Burnett, Destiny Stewart and Maddy McCannon! They have done a great job exhibiting character traits and doing good deeds! “Make A Friend Day” was February 11th. Students used popsicle sticks during lunch to sit with new friends; treats were given out at each table. There were questions for conversation starters. Students enjoyed socializing with new friends!

Random Acts of Kindness Day was February 17th. Teachers and Staff members were given lolli-flowers (tootsie pop in a petal) to give out to students that were caught showing an act of kindness. Students enjoyed being recognized in this fun way!

February 10th was a busy day at PHIS as approximately 160 dental screenings were completed by Cass County Dental. Out of these screenings, 106 students received fluoride treatments. These students will receive a second dose of fluoride again in May. All students benefited from a presentation on oral health education and received homecare supplies. We are grateful to Cass County Dental for partnering with us to provide this service and to help our students and families.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The Middle School Bands are currently working extremely hard to prepare for our upcoming dinner concert on Monday, March 14th. The seventh grade band will be playing *Rippling Watercolors* as well as *Stone Creek Episode*. We are currently working on playing beyond what is written on the page and playing as passionate musicians through our use of dynamic contrast. We are also learning about phrasing and playing complete musical sentences together. The eighth grade band will be performing *Intrepid Journey*, *The Banks of Delaware* and *The Adventure Begins*. The eighth graders have been focusing on the proper use of various articulations along with the importance of balance, blend, and listening to one another. The middle school jazz band is comprised of seventh and eighth grade students and meets before school on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. This group will be performing *Jammin’ with Charlie* and the well-known hit, *Kansas City*. The jazz band has been working on following chord changes during a solo section, syncopated rhythms, articulation, and shaping melodic lines.
Our PHMS variety show is coming up on **Friday, March 4th and 5th at 7:00pm** in the High School Performing Arts Center! Tickets are $5.00 for adults, $3.00 for children 12 and under (teachers free on Friday)! Students at the Intermediate and Middle School buildings will get to preview the show on March 2nd and 3rd during school. The show features songs from a variety of Broadway musicals, including “Ragtime,” “Newsies,” “Motown,” “The Wizard of Oz,” “Wicked,” and many more. Students have been hard at work singing, dancing, and creating musical storyboards to prepare for the show. Please come out and support us on March 4th and 5th!

General Music students are full swing into their guitar unit! Students have been listening and analyzing different styles of guitar playing, have been performing simple melodies on the guitar, and have been learning how to properly tune their guitars. The unit will culminate with students creating a music video with their own performance of a popular song as the soundtrack.

**Art 1** classes have been learning how to enlarge pictures using the correct proportions. They created a dissection picture by taking pieces of an existing picture and using a view finder zero in on a small parts of that picture then drawing it larger on a piece of paper making their own composition. This was not an easy project to do and keep the proportions correct. It was also the culmination colored pencil project so they also had to use the skills they learned in shading, blending and burnishing colored pencils.

**Art 2** has been creating clay coiled pots and glazing them. They learned the 3 techniques of hand built pottery: Pinch, slab and coil. They used several techniques to create coil designs on their pots. They also learned the proper techniques to glaze a piece of pottery. No two were the same.

**Project Art** Worked 2 1/2 weeks on a weaving project which was the last project in their Native American unit. We discussed that the Navajo’s were known for their weaving skills.

The next two weeks:

**Art 1 and Art 2** will be starting a color unit. They will do a variety of assignments using Analogous, Monochromatic and Complimentary color schemes. Various media such as tempera, and watercolor paints, along with pastels and construction paper will be used to create awesome works of art.

**Project Art** watched Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs II in order to create “foodimals” which are original clay pieces of food that have human characteristics and “come to life!” Much imagination is needed to do this project but they’re up for the job.
HIGH SCHOOL

PHHS sophomore has a musical trip of a lifetime. On February 7th, 2016, Pleasant Hill band student Gennavieve Wrobel performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City as part of the Honors Performance Series. This was an orchestra put together from nominations and audition recordings submitted from all over the world. Gennavieve was one of five oboe players selected for this incredible honor.

Peer Teaching:

Morgan Hoenshell (Welding II) is advising Kylie Mullin -Struzick on how to set a neutral cutting flame for one of her required welds in Welding I.

Students in Señora Purnell's Spanish I class record themselves reading a Spanish dialog. Each group will meet with Sra. Purnell individually and play their recording for an evaluation. Students are working on pronunciation, sight words, and fluency in reading/speaking Spanish.

TECHNOLOGY

On February 11, district secretaries participated in a staff development session at Central Office regarding Google Docs. The two sessions were spent learning and practicing setting up folders and files in Google Drive, sharing settings in Google Docs, and advanced settings for Google Mail and Google Calendar. Ideas were shared for increasing efficiency and productivity in the district offices to help students, staff and parents. Feedback regarding future staff development sessions was also collected and will be used to design further workshops.
**Special Services**

Speech-Kathy Lacapa-Boegl

Everyone Deserves a Voice. This is the belief behind everything we do in the speech-language-hearing department. Why is this our motto? Because humans are connected to one another when they speak. And, those connections are made deeper through the ongoing sharing of ideas, dreams, wants, and needs. So when a little one has difficulty sharing their voice with the world, it is our goal to find ways to help them connect. There are many different avenues for speaking. A child may use a combination of pictures, technology, sign language, pointing, eye gaze, body movements, and words to communicate. For our littlest friends, often toys, puppets, and games help them find their voice. No matter what the technique, we are all enriched when everyone has a voice!

Kathy Lacapa-Boegl, Proud Speech-Language Pathologist

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**Self-Contained Room-Staci Waibel**

The students have been working on facts and opinions. We have also been working on writing complete sentences. The students gave their opinion on liking hot chocolate or not liking hot chocolate. They then had to give reasons why they like it or do not like it. Students were worked with individually to verbalize their thoughts, an adult was there to help them take their thoughts and make them complete. Students also worked on fine motor skills by cutting out a “hot chocolate” mug, coloring, and gluing cotton balls to look like marshmallows. They then got to celebrate by drinking some steamy hot chocolate!

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**Middle Instagram**

Teachers: Mrs. Tammy Kirchhofer, 7th and 8th grade ELA
Mrs. Marylee Myler, 7th and 8th grade Co-Teacher, ELA

Class: 8th grade ELA

Objective:

Compare, contrast, and analyze connections: text-to-text, test-to-self, test-to-world, Follow the Writing Process, Compose a variety of texts;, argumentative essay, Use active-listening behaviors
Why: Students in the 8th grade are required to write an argumentative essay. This type of writing is enriched by incorporating large group discussions and personal connections to the topic.

Instagram….better than sliced bread or the downfall of America? The 8th grade students in our classes were given the task of writing an argumentative paragraph or essay where he or she supported personal views, while also addressing the counter-argument. We began this process by reading a Scholastic article about a model’s personal experience on Instagram. She shared that she would take a picture 200 times after not eating all day, so she could get the perfect picture that made her stomach look flat. We then transitioned into a fishbowl activity where the students discussed the pros and cons along with personal experiences on Instagram. The students were very transparent with how they felt about this type of social media and some of their experiences. The “fishbowl” was the brainstorming portion of the writing process, and brought up some points that might not have been thought of individually.

High
Dana Scott
In Algebra 1B class students are incorporating ELA into class. Students have been learning how to read and write directions in algebraic form.

Students were given a quadratic trinomial to factor using Bottom’s Up factoring. The first problem was done for them with step by step instructions beside each algebraic step. The second problem led them through the problem with partial, step by step instructions, asking them to show the steps algebraically. On the third trinomial, they had to provide both the algebraic steps and the step by step instructions.

District
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER
Teacher: Mrs. Frankie Lees

The ELL students are taking on a new challenge this semester as they partake in an online version of the ACCESS screening for English Language Learners. This screening is conducted annually and includes the domains of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. This is the first year the screening has been offered online. These screenings are very important for the students as we use them to guide future learning opportunities based on the results.

The students have enjoyed the new online version of the screening and we have had many positive reports. Screening is scheduled to be completed March 4, 2016 with results being mailed back to district the middle of May 2016.

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

1. Rooster Wrestling: The Roosters just completed a successful week at the MSHSAA State Wrestling Championships. The team took 9 wrestlers to the meet and brought home five medals! Kaler Selvin - 6th; Cole Lightfoot - 4th; Cole Sullivan - 3rd;
Tommy Williams - 2nd; and Olen Brattin - 1st (second straight year and 4th final...first time in Rooster history!). Ultimately the team placed 6th in the tournament. It is a team Pleasant Hill can be proud of as their success was enjoyed throughout the program this winter. They were very exciting to watch! Congratulations to Coach Wyatt, Coach Bird, Coach Redwine and Coach Reeves as well.

2. Rooster Basketball: The Roosters travel to Harrisonville this Tuesday evening for a MRVC West rivalry game. JV will play at 5:30 and the varsity will play at 7pm. The Rooster will wrap up their regular season with Senior night Thursday evening vs. Grain Valley. The district tournament in Clinton will begin Monday Feb. 29th at 7pm vs Warrensburg. Come out and support the Roosters!

3. Chicks Basketball: The Chicks also will play in Harrisonville on Tuesday evening in the varsity double header. The Chicks varsity team will play at 5:30pm and the JV will play at 7pm in Harrisonville's auxiliary gym. They will complete their regular season on the road in Grain Valley this Thursday evening. The district tournament begins in Clinton on Monday Feb 29th at 5:30pm vs. Warrensburg. Come out and support the Chicks this week!

4. Speech & Debate: The speech and debate team began the week by wrapping up the MRVC tournament with 2 third place finishes and 3 conference titles. When added to the awards previously earned, Pleasant Hill finished with a total of 14 all conference honors and an overall team championship. With a large portion of the team on the road for other events, the speech team took 3 students and 6 entries to Oak Grove where all six entries made finals with 2 sixth place finishes, one third, 2 seconds and a tournament champion. With a total of 100 sweeps points, the 16.6 point per entry average was more than 5 points per entry higher than any other school. Follow the Speech & Debate team on twitter at @roosterdebate

5. Choir: Hillside keeps racking up the hardware. Last week the group secured the grand champion at Harrisonville. This week they travelled to Nashville where they earned a spot in the finals of this national competition. The group returned home Sunday evening/Monday morning from the trip. The kids will be exhausted from an exciting and fun trip!

6. Foreign Language Club: Mr. Wickman has the foreign language club trying new things. He has introduced to the group the history of the German alphabet and numbers this past week. This group is growing and seems to learn or experience something new with the leadership of Mr. Wickman each time they meet. It is a fun way to experience different cultures and languages with friends and peers.

FACILITIES

Buildings and Grounds team member Randy Greufe aerates one of the practice fields as part of the district field maintenance program. Practice fields, game fields and school campuses are scheduled to be aerated in the fall and spring. Aeration allows the district to save costs on soil additives, seed and water because this practice allows for air, nutrients and water to better penetrate the soil producing stronger and healthier plant growth.