DISTRICT
First Year Teachers Complete Professional Development
The District Professional Development Committee (DPDC) annually provides in-district training for first year teachers, along with a mentoring program which continues during the second year of teaching. The district's first year teachers met with DPDC officers: Mrs. Angie Davis, Mrs. Laura Case, and Mrs. Lyndsey Martin, on the morning of Friday, February 24, for their final session of new teacher training for this school year. The DPDC officers have worked diligently to provide outstanding professional development, to support and provide encouragement throughout the year for our first year teachers. The final day of training was a success and growth of new teachers was evident during the activities planned. This local program, which fulfills necessary certification requirements, is a success due to the dedication of the DPDC officers' commitment to the profession. These officers exemplify the meaning of giving back to others in the profession! Through their planning and hard work, our new first year teachers, have a greater chance for success in the profession!

Principals Plan for Workshop Sessions
Last week the elementary level principals met to plan for two sessions which will be presented at the Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP). Mrs. Arbuckle, Mrs. Haight, Mrs. Mackey, and Dr. Gallagher will present a session on Google tools and tips administrators can use to communicate and provide professional development with staff, as well as ways to better organize work flow. Topics will include a Resource Page, Google Classroom, Google Calendar, Shared Docs, Curriculum Organization, etc. The second presentation the group is preparing will help others implement Project Lead The Way (Launch, Gateway) in their buildings and districts to ensure students are prepared and ready for the pathways of PLTW at the high school level. The MAESP conference takes place on March 11 through March 14. It is an honor for our district to be chosen to spotlight our outstanding practices at two breakout sessions!

PRIMARY SCHOOL
2nd graders raised more than $5000 for the American Heart Association during our annual Jump Rope for Heart, coordinated by PE teacher Janet Anderson during the months of January and February. Students at all grade levels learned and practiced jump roping skills, then with the assistance of some parent volunteers, 2nd graders jumped rope and evaluated their own performance. Kindergarten students enjoyed a field trip to the Paul Mesner Puppet Theater last week. 1st graders are taking Test C of the Discovery Education benchmark assessments in reading and math this week, and looking forward to their field trip to the Folly Theater on March 7. Denise Robinson led our professional development on Feb. 24, where teachers shared and discussed students’ work in math. We are especially focused on discussions about math vocabulary, strategies, fact fluency, and number sense at each grade level. Right now, the Primary School is excited about Read Across America Week and Dr. Seuss’ birthday. Students will have fun with Cat in the Hat breakout boxes provided by LMS Tricia Beaman, and everyone is dressing up in various costumes throughout the week.
**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Spotlight on Bowling!**

Students in Mrs. Smother's and Mrs. Sullivan's classes were treated to a day of bowling. Student groups created sets of bowling pins using a variety of recycled items. Then the Dome was transformed into Rooster Lanes - where the two classes took turns bowling and recording their results. These were then converted into decimals and percentages too! What a fun and creative way to learn!

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**Let's READ!**

PHES students participated in the PTO Read A Thon last week. Students were encouraged to find $25 in sponsors so they could get 25 inches of duct tape to try to stick Mrs. Mackey to the wall. Collectively the school raised almost $4,000. All students participated in the school wide party, those who earned prizes collected them and everyone had a snack. Lots of duct tape did the job and the students were thrilled to see Mrs. Mackey stick!
Congratulations to the PHIS Students of the Week: Madison Franklin, Brenden Bunch, Hannah Kleyh, Hailey Gentry, Jason Huffman, and Maci Brinkoetter! They were selected by their teachers for exhibiting character traits and doing good deeds. We are very proud of them!

Kindness and thinking of others has been an intentional focus this month at PHIS! Some of the activities are as follows. Students engaged in Make a Friend Day – Mix It Up Day on the 10th. This included a video created by students for students that portrayed friendships at PHIS. Friendship question cards were also available for students to use during lunch that day. Student Council (STUCO) sold candy grams which were delivered on February 14th during Rooster Time/homeroom which included special messages. STUCO members also individualized a personal message to every student and taped the heart shaped messages to lockers as a surprise on Valentine’s Day. Positive School Climate/Friends of Rachel Club members also contributed by inserting two kindness coupons in various lockers to redeem for a treat. One coupon was for the owner of the locker and one was to be shared with a classmate. This was in conjunction Random Acts of Kindness Day on February 17.

Friday, February 24 was an early release for teacher professional development. Teachers and staff at PHIS rotated through three different stations. They engaged in breakout boxes regarding the topic, the 7 Keys to Comprehension. This activity allowed staff members to review and stay sharp regarding these reading strategies and allowed new members to become better acquainted with them. By working in small groups, as a team through the breakout boxes, staff members also continued to build relationships and enhance their collaborative culture. Staff also participated in an activity through EdHub to better their skills with teaching academic and disciplinary language. Lastly, staff engaged in an EdPuzzle activity and extension regarding QAR—Question Answer Relationships. It was a productive, successful afternoon of learning together and from one another!
**Middle School**

Left: PHMS’s first UMKC Honor Band representatives played earlier this month. Center: The stars (and planets) of *Schoolhouse Rock* shine on stage! Right: Science students carefully work on a PLTW project that requires soldering wires together.

Pleasant Hill Middle School
February proves to busy at the middle school with learning, activities, and honors. Seventh-grade science has moved from building circuits with snap-on pieces to actually soldering wires together to understand how current moves and works for us. The music classes performed *Schoolhouse Rock* at the beginning of the month, which showcased the vocal or dancing talents of over eighty students. The same weekend Mrs. Langemach took six students to UMKC’s honor band performance. This was PHMS’s inaugural participation in this event. The middle school held its winter dance on February 17. Students dressed up, had snacks, and danced in the gym.

Left: Mrs. Dowdy’s PE classes practice line dances to prepare for the school dance... Center: ...and it pays off! Right: Students in Mr. Berry's theater class make miniature sets out of clay and styrofoam to work on stage set-up.

**High School**

Four students from the Pleasant Hill FFA Vo-Ag each earned a $1,000 scholarship to Missouri Welding Institute for their participation in the MWI welding competition for traditional high school students. Students that were recognized for their achievement are Larry Kiger, Tommy Williams, Austin Marshall, and Gabe Smith.
High School Psychology classes have been studying the biological basis of behavior, looking at the structures of the brain and their primary functions. Students constructed Brain Caps to help visualize the cerebral cortex and the lobes of the brain. Students also created nervous system-themed Valentine's that demonstrated knowledge of brain structures and their functions.

Pleasant Hill DECA had a very successful day at Districts on February 15, 2017! Many of these students have qualified for state DECA competition to be held at Lodge of the Four Seasons on March 12-14, 2017. Congratulations to the following students for their placement at the District IV Career Development Conference competition:

- Paige Johnson & Sarah Davis - 1st Place in Learn and Earn (State Qualifiers)
- Robin Brundage - 1st Place in AAM and Fashion Merchandising (State Qualifier)
- Gavin Wheeler & Sarah Davis - 2nd Place in Sports and Entertainment Promotional Plan (State Qualifiers)
- Ben Watson - 2nd Place Principles of Finance (State Qualifier)
- Chance Sullivan - 3rd Place in Advertising Campaign (State Qualifier)
- Austin White - 4th Place in Automotive Services Marketing Series (State Qualifier)
- Jackson Caley - 5th Place in Sports and Entertainment Marketing
- Gavin Wheeler - 6th Place in Sports and Entertainment Marketing

Geometry students in Mrs. Case's class utilized their knowledge about transformations to create a comic book where the hero moved through an obstacle course set up by their evil nemesis. Students rotated, reflected and translated their hero through the course to find a missing item. These transformations were drawn on an obstacle course and embedded into a traditional comic strip story. Students identified the plot, added key details, and illustrated their work. On the obstacle course students showed lines of reflection and correct orientation of their character after each transformation.

On Monday, February 13th, Pleasant Hill High School hosted a blood drive as part of the Students Against Destructive Decision's Random Acts of Kindness Week celebrations. Tyler Livingston and Michelle Butricks were the PHHS Blood Drive Student Leaders. They worked to get students signed up and help run the blood drive. They will be receiving a scholarship from The American Red Cross for their efforts. With the support of our amazing students and community, PHHS was able to exceed the blood unit goal set by Red Cross. The American Red Cross suggests that next year we increase our goal to 120 units of blood donated, making our school
one of the largest donor schools in the area. Thanks to the efforts made today, we collected over 60 units of blood, saving over 180 lives.

Child Development II students are studying early childhood ages. Our curriculum states that we use a variety of learning tools to develop lesson plans that will be implemented with younger children. Students are spending time in the classroom to prepare those plans using technology and children’s books. Students also travel to a local child care facility to deliver lessons.

Nutrition and Food II students are learning how a microwave works and the variety of items that you can prepare in the microwave oven. Students used their chromebooks to research how the microwave actually works and then use green screen technology to prepare a production that shows the process using relevant vocabulary. In the kitchen, students use teamwork and culinary skills to prepare items such as apple crisp, cupcakes, smores, Hawaiian meatballs, and rice using our microwaves.
SPECIAL SERVICES
Primary Self-Contained, Waibel
We have been talking about kindness and how we can spread kindness. For Valentine’s Day, the kids created their own Valentine to give to someone and show them kindness. They were not given much direction, I wanted to see their creativity. The kids were given the option to paint, glitter, or both. They also had lots of supplies to choose from—different sizes/colors of hearts, doilies, tissue paper, etc. The kids loved having the freedom to create their own Valentine’s and hand them to the teacher they chose!
Students in Ms. Justus’ ELA class have been going to the library for lessons over Fake News. They learned how to spot Fake News and how to use an acronym RADCAB to assist in the identification of Real and Fake news. RADCAB stands for is it relevant, appropriate, detailed, current, who is giving it and what type of authority do they have, and is the information bias or one sided. Mrs. Lally the librarian had them make a graphic organizer that described what Fake news is and what it means to be bias as well as key points on how to spot fake news. Some of the kids examples were what is website address, who is author, what ads, pictures, surround the information, and check at least 3 other resources for accuracy of information. After their lessons in the library the students then read an article from NEWSELA.com called “Students are learning how to be better at spotting fake news” and had to respond by writing a short paragraph that explains the central idea of the article and use at least two details from the article to support your response. The students did really well on this unit and seemed to enjoy being detectives and learning how to spot fake news.

This semester is going great in Ms. Schuette’s and Mrs. Martin’s classes. They have been working on area and perimeter in Math and they have been doing rectilinear shapes. This is a hard concept for the students to get but through station teaching and small groups most of the students are starting to understand this very difficult concept. Students have been working on their build a zoo’s as well to get a better understanding of area and perimeter. Below is a sample of the student’s work.

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

**Highlights:**

1. **The Rooster wrestling**: Congratulations to Cole Lightfoot, senior, for earning a 2nd place finish at state wrestling last week. Other qualifiers for state included Lane Jellison, Chance Sullivan, Nolan Miller and Ryan Edenburn.
2. **Chicks Basketball** plays on the road Monday night in district tournament action vs the Grandview Lady Bulldogs at 7:30pm. With a win, they will play Tuesday at 7:30pm.
3. **Rooster Basketball** got a two big wins over the past couple of weeks! The Roosters won vs. Odessa with a last second 3 point shot from Noah Kenyon. The team also got a strong MRVC victory over Grain Valley in their gym last Thursday night! The team begins district tournament play Monday evening vs. Clinton; 6pm. With a win, they will play Tuesday at 6pm.
4. **Hillside and all the Pleasant Hill show choirs**: Hillside grabbed yet another grand champion trophy last week in Joplin, Missouri. It is their third of the season thus far! Rumor has it they are ranked 2nd in the nation among competitive choirs! They travel to Omaha this next weekend to compete.
5. **Speech and Debate** The speech and debate team traveled to one of the largest tournaments in the state with over 1000 total entries. Joe Dryer finished 15th and Eric Humphrey finished 7th. Eric managed this placement while battling throat issues that left him unable to speak above a whisper.

6. **Band**: Mr. Twenter and select band students travel to Oak Grove this coming weekend to participate in the MRVC All-Conference band. They will be conducted by clinician John Bell with the concert taking place at 5pm.

7. **The Scholar Bowl**: Even down several veteran starters due to illness and debate conflicts, Varsity Scholar Bowl's A-Team went 6-3 at Fort Osage’s MARS III Tournament this Saturday, missing finals by one place and placing 6/18 teams present in a very competitive field that included 5 other Nationals-qualifying teams. Next week we play at William Woods University followed by our MRVC Tournament on March 14th at Blue River Community College where JV will defend it's title and Varsity is ranked in the top five and should be favored to break to finals. Mr. Moore and several parent volunteers will take the team to Chicago on April 28th to compete in its first ever National Championship Tournament (the NAQT SSNCT).

8. A huge shout-out to FFA and all the officers for an fun and well run FFA week last week. The program took part in multiple activities and “dress up days” and ended with a barnwarming dance. It was a fun time for all the kids!

9. **Spring sports are underway as of Monday! Where has the year gone?**

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**Facilities**

The Pleasant Hill R-III Middle School staff received intruder training on Friday, February 24th, 2017. The staff and local law enforcement met in the cafeteria prior to the drill. Teachers were given a time of day and were to perform the duties they would be involved in at the time given. The drill was set into action and staff had to respond to events going on in building, making decisions based on activities taking place in the building. These drills are designed to be as life like as possible, giving teachers little assistance in making their decisions. No drill is duplicated forcing staff to think on their feet as the situation changes. We appreciate attendance and participation of the Pleasant Hill Police Department during these training sessions. Their feedback is very valuable in determining adjustments that may need to be made in our training.