DISTRICT
Administrators Participate in Recruitment Days
It is the time of year again when colleges and universities have their annual recruitment days for their students majoring in education. Each spring, the University of Central Missouri hosts their Teacher Placement Day, with this year’s event taking place on March 16th. UCM’s Teacher Placement Day gives districts an opportunity to see potential candidates and conduct a first screening of those applicants. This year our district will also be represented at the University of Missouri’s recruitment event, called MOJOE. Several mid-Missouri colleges and Universities send students to this event in Columbia. MU’s event takes place on Tuesday, March 22nd.

District administrators represent Pleasant Hill R-III School District at UCM Placement Day.

PRIMARY SCHOOL
The second Friday of March was established as Missouri School Read-In Day by the state legislature in 2012. We celebrated it at the PS with stories in every classroom; students were able to choose which books and staff members they wanted to hear. Everyone wore pajamas and participated in a day of reading. Our highlights this week have been 2nd grade field trips to the Coterie Theater and Lea McKeighan Park, 1st grade field trips to Kauffman Stadium, visits from 1st. and 2nd. grade grandparents, and Food Power, the large display sponsored by University of Missouri Extension Office. PE teacher Janet Anderson coordinates the display, volunteers, and schedule for K-2 students, as they visit different stations to learn about nutrition, production and consumption, health, and energy. In the coming week, we have students’ spring photos and the NED show: never give up, encourage others, and do your best. Yo-yo sales after spring break pay for this inspiring character education presentation, which includes some awesome yo-yo tricks. At our monthly assembly on March 24, we will present the local Lay Clergy with a donation of over $500 from our very successful Dollars and Donuts with Dads event. Staff is learning about and working on positive school culture, goals for next year’s building improvement plan, and quarterly pacing guides for math and ELA during professional development sessions.
**Elementary School**

Last week a group of ES teachers visited Hillcrest STEAM Academy in Belton. This is the second group of teachers that has visited Hillcrest this semester. Our goal is to learn about their journey into STEAM education and apply it here at PHES as we continue to explore the possibilities of Project Based Learning in a STEAM integrated environment.

Today at 1:15, we will recognize 3rd quarter achievement at our Celebration Assembly. Certificates will be distributed for achievements in character, sportsmanship, attendance, art, music, perseverance and academics. A special award will be given to our art teacher, Nicole Albin, to honor her outstanding contributions to our staff, parents and students in the area of art-integrated learning.

Our MASH (Men as Student Helpers) program is taking off! Currently we have 3 volunteers who spend their time here at school as a reading buddy, lunch partner or tutor. We are collaborating with Bright Futures to grow this program for our students.

This Thursday we will finish the week with our March Madness Basketball Game. This annual event is a long-standing tradition organized by Mrs. Reeves in which the PHES staff faces off against student representatives from the 4th grade. Lieutenant, “the enforcer” Tieman will once again act as our official referee and each staff member will participate in some way! It is sure to be a fun-filled event enjoyed by everyone.

Over Spring Break students will be invited to participate in a Math Challenge. This challenge incorporates computation and problem solving and will be due when the students return to school on March 30th.

The students pictured are this week’s High Five Character Award Recipients:

**Intermediate School**

Congratulations to this week’s Students of the Week! They are: Jesse Ouyang, Brooke Shifflett, Bella Jensen, Adriana Kalousek, Keely Crownover and Hannah Ponder. They were recognized by their teachers for exhibiting outstanding character traits and deeds!
PHIS students donated items for Wayside Waifs. This drive was sponsored by Mrs. Chandler and the Rockin' Roosters. Rockin' Roosters performed March 9th at an area nursing home, delivered items to Wayside Waifs and toured the facility, then ate lunch out before returning to the building. What a great showing of kindness and giving by our students!

Students at PHIS participated in Missouri Read-In Day. This State Statute recommends that the day be appropriately observed through activities that will bring about an increased awareness of the importance and benefits of reading and encourage greater emphasis on reading both in the school and in the home. Missouri school read-in day recognizes that reading proficiency is a major factor in determining a child's success in school. Our activities included a book swap; students could bring books to school and trade them for books that other students brought. This is a great way for students to obtain new books without having to purchase them. Students also had the opportunity to read a storybook and have it recorded. These recordings were provided to the Primary School teachers and librarian so they could then be shared with PS students. You can view some of these awesome book read a-louds at http://sharethelove.weebly.com/books.html. Of course students also dressed in their summer attire for our theme and had time to read throughout the day!

'Pi Day' was March 14th. 5th and 6th grade students completed activities such as making Pi Day bracelets, learning about the history of Pi, measuring objects to discover how Pi is calculated, and using Pi to measure everyday objects. During Rooster Time students enjoyed pies and other round snacks to help celebrate. We thank everyone who donated supplies and treats to help make our Pi Day a meaningful success!
Positive School Climate/Friends of Rachel members planned the following activities to help build a positive, fun climate:

- They held a drawing for a “pot of gold”. Two names from each homeroom were drawn and our PSC/FOR students delivered goodies on St. Patrick’s Day during homeroom/Rooster Time.
- Irish music was played during the Morning Motivator to share and broaden cultural perspectives. Students were also invited to wear green!
- Students engaged in “Mix It Up Day” in the cafeteria; this increased conversations among new friends. Tables were numbered and one table per team was randomly selected to receive a treat.

We are excited to start the beginning band process for our current 5th grade students interested in instrumental music. Families should have received the info cards as seen below. Please contact the school at 816-540-3156 or email the band director, Mr. Twenter at atwenter@pleasanthillschools.com or Ms. Langemach at klangemach@pleasanthillschools.com should you have any questions.
Social Studies News...Mrs. Campbell’s 7th Grade World Cultures Class: After learning about the culture, government, economy and history of the United Kingdom, students worked diligently to fill a box of items that were specific to the U.S. culture. The items brought in were sent to our buddy class in the U.K. In return, the students received a wonderful box full of goodies specific to the UK culture. Students were allowed to taste different sweet and savory treats kids in the UK eat every day. This was a fun and real-world situation allowing the 7th grade world culture students a way to experience another culture without leaving the comforts of home.

Mrs. Campbell’s 8th Grade U.S. History Class: Students have been learning, analyzing and interpreting the United States Constitution. Activates have been added to class periods to make learning interactive. During the analyzing and interpreting of Article II, students were given the chance to become the Electoral College as different issues were voted on in class. Students are moving into the amendments portion and will soon know all 27 amendments to the Constitution as well as how each one affects their life.

4th Quarter Student Attendance Incentive:

For our end-of-the-year/4th quarter attendance incentive reward, we are planning a “Tailgate Party” for the afternoon of Thursday, May 19 (the day before school is out for summer break). We will utilize the softball field, track, and football turf for games, frisbee, lounging, and other fun-filled activities. In true “tailgate fashion”, we will be grilling out hot dogs and have tables set up for a giant tailgate party filled with yummy treats! In order for a student to be eligible to participate this time, we are looking at year-long attendance percentage being 90% and above for the entire year OR 4th Quarter only of 92% and above. Thus, all of our students are still eligible to work toward this attendance goal and plan for a fun end-of-the-year celebration. Our advisory teachers will be going over students individual attendance percentage again with them each week as we did this past quarter.

Math News...Algebra 1 is currently working with adding, subtracting, & multiplying polynomials. The next two weeks they will begin factoring trinomials and solving quadratic functions by factoring. We also will be going over new vocabulary such as finding the “roots” or “zeros” of a quadratic function and what the “difference of two squares” means. We will watch some videos on different ways to factor and students will follow along working the problems with the video. This will prepare the students to be ready to solve problems involving parabolas such as the one shown in the story problem below:
High School

Student Honors and Awards:
Haley Lamborn’s “Blue Eyed and Freckled”, was entered into the UCM Annual High School Art Exhibition and received first place. This 18x24” opaque water color painting was inspired by the planning of family tropical vacation during the winter months. When asked about the artwork, Haley stated that she wanted to do something that reflected the “fun, warm, and outgoing climate of a tropical atmosphere.”
The exhibition is currently being held on the UCM campus and will continue through March 31, 2016. High school students throughout the state were encouraged to submit their work, however only a select few were accepted into the exhibition. Congratulations to Haley Lamborn for this outstanding achievement.

Library Media Center News:
Gateway Award winning books are chosen each year and promoted at the high school level across the state. Students at Pleasant Hill High School are encouraged to read at least four of these titles each year. This year, the 64 students who met this challenge were invited to a pizza party in the library on Tuesday, March 8. Students were able to eat lunch in the library with other winners and then vote on their favorite Gateway book title. Votes from students at PHHS will be sent to the state level, where votes from all over Missouri are tallied and one Gateway book is declared the winner for the 2015-2016 school year. Congratulations to our winners!

In the classrooms:
The photograph on the left shows how students in Mr. Wickman’s Spanish II class are using a blended learning model to access the class website to complete class assignments. On the right, Jarod Medlock and Connor Coffel, learn how to fix and rebuild a rewind starter in less than 5 minutes in Mr. Keilholz’ Small Gas Engines class.
Special Services
Primary
Elizabeth Woodson

1st Grade Special Education Co-Teacher

Standard: 1.OA.1 Use addition and subtraction within 20 to solve word problems involving situations of adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing, with unknowns in all positions, e.g., by using objects, drawings, and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem.

Objective: “I can solve subtraction problems within twenty.”

1st graders in Mrs. Pickett and Ms. Woodson’s co-taught classroom have been integrating technology into their learning. In math, students took a Kahoot! quiz. Kahoot is an online quiz game. 1st grade teachers designed the quiz using concepts regarding OA.1. The quiz was projected on the SmartBoard and each student had an iPad to submit his/her answers on. The students were able to review for a test in a competitive and exciting way and the teachers were able to collect data about which concepts the students needed more instruction on.

Objective: “I can create a functional labyrinth.”

1st graders in Mrs. Diederich's and Ms. Woodson's co-taught classroom worked creatively and collaboratively to create a functional labyrinth using a cardboard box, Popsicle sticks, straws, and a gum ball. The labyrinth had to have a start space and a finish line. After completing the task, the students challenged their classmates and teachers to navigate their homemade mazes. This project was part of the Makerspace curriculum which focuses on hands on real world design challenges that teach STEM concepts through experience.
Elementary
Michelle LLoyd
Self Contained
Multiplication Exploration with Legos.

Our outdoor lab allowed us to take the learning outside!

We used legos to create arrays, equal groups, and to solve simple multiplication facts. The students worked individually to create their own pieces. Soon, we will be building structures and then finding the area and perimeter of our pieces with the legos.

Intermediate
Ms. Love’s 6th Grade Reading & Writing Class

In these images, students are working diligently in Google documents to complete a Cold Write. Students were given the following writing prompt and asked to respond. “Think about a difficult challenge or problem someone your age might face. What is the challenge, and how does the person handle it?” Students were encouraged to develop their writing piece. They were encouraged to use dialogue. Students were immersed in the assignment. In the past, students were asked to complete an assignment similar to this using pen and paper. Often, the quality and quantity of the work was not up to expectation. My goal for these students was to complete a cold write which would result in a Basic to Proficient paper. They met that goal, in part due to the current curriculum we use (Wonders), but also because they have access to technology. It was amazing watching their commitment to the assignment. KUDDO’s to these 6th graders.

High
High School Language Arts II - Mrs. Book and Mrs. Felden

The students in LAII are currently reading Night by Eli Wiesel. Chapter 3 of Night offers vivid descriptions first day at the camp. The objective is for the students to listen to chapter 3 at an instructional level and summarize the events through pictures. Half of the chapter was divided into 8 sections, and the teachers team taught the lesson by taking turns reading sections, assisting with
suggestions, and monitoring the students drawings. Once the last reading sections was complete, the students participated in a pair-share activity. The students were asked to find a partner and summarize the chapter using their pictures and justify to their peers the reasons behind their drawings. Teachers circulated the class during the pair-share discussions and listened to responses and participated in student discussions. To assist all students and to differentiate instruction, several accommodations were offered to students. The chapter was divided in eight different sections, so the students could focus only on a small portion of the text at a time. Chunking information assists with comprehension.

Speech ES-HS

THE O'SPEECH and O'LANGUAGE Room with Mrs. O'White has gone GREEN!!

Speech/Language students have been working on Limericks. A limerick is a poem from Ireland. Students wrote their own limerick and then constructed a shamrock using pipe cleaners to infuse art into our learning.
PLEASANT HILL ACTIVITIES... “IT'S A GREAT DAY TO BE A ROOSTER/CHICK!”

Highlights:

1. Speech & Debate: The speech and debate team turned out two 6th place finishes at districts this past weekend and a District Champion! Congratulations to O’Tillia Jerabek for winning the district in Lincoln Douglas Debate over the likes of Ray-Pec, Truman, Oak Grove, Belton and Rockhurst! Twitter: @roosterdebate

2. Choir: District choir solo and ensemble contest was this past Saturday, held at Grain Valley HS. 11 soloists earned “I” ratings with another 12 earning a “II” rating. 12 ensembles earned “I” rating while another 5 earned “II” ratings. This means 23 soloists or ensembles have qualified for state choir contest! Nice work!

3. Band: District band solo and ensemble contest was held as well this past weekend at GVHS. The instrumentalists earned 11 “I” ratings overall (8 solos/3 ensembles) which qualify for state music contest. There were 22 “II” ratings as well.

4. Boys Golf: The Roosters had a successful tournament this past Friday at the Oak Grove Invitational. The varsity squad won the championship by about 25 strokes! The JV squad also took their championship as well. Conference play begins Tuesday (Odessa at Home) and Thursday (Excelsior Springs) this week at Country Creek.

5. Baseball: The Roosters Baseball team gets underway travelling to Harrison, Arkansas for the Ozark Tournament! They will return to the area the following week to play in Harrisonville on Tuesday (29th) and home to Excelsior Springs on Thursday (31st)

6. GSCR: The Chicks soccer team begins their season on the road Tuesday night at Clinton and then back home on Wednesday night vs. Excelsior Springs; 5pm JV start.

7. Track: The Rooster/Chicks track teams get going this week with a JV meet at Sherwood on Thursday with varsity on the road Tuesday (Grain Valley) and Friday (Odessa) the following week.

8. The winter sports season wrapped up this past Thursday evening with the annual awards night. Pleasant Hill should be proud as a total of 28 MRVC Academic All-Conference accolades were handed out among our winter programs! Eleven MRVC All-Conference honors were handed out as well.

9. A special thank you to the Pleasant Hill Booster Club, the Noteables and the Band boosters for all their efforts in supporting our programs this year. If you are looking to get involved as a parent or patron, these organizations provide excellent opportunities to do just that! It is awesome the level of support they are able to provide our kids!

TECHNOLOGY

On Friday March 11, district secretaries met at Central Office to begin the work on switching from paper-based to online registration. The first item of business was doing a visual “walk through” of the process to understand the actions necessary for a parent to enroll a new student or re-enroll a current student for the upcoming school year. After the walk-through, a list was compiled of all the forms necessary for completion of enrollment for each building. The secretaries divided the work of ensuring that all of the forms are converted to the correction format for upload to SIS. As the upload process nears completion and details are finalized, more information will be mailed out to staff and parents regarding the online enrollment process.
The Pleasant Hill School District conducted its regularly scheduled District Safety Committee meeting on March 17, 2016. The meeting was attended by members of the teaching staff, nursing department, technology department, a community member, building and district level administrators, and local law enforcement. Detective Mark Largent reported on the Community Response to Active Shooter Training conducted by the Pleasant Hill Police Department recently. Other topics included moving the annual district search and rescue training as well as first aid training to be a part of the professional development day in January. Dr. Yokley reported on upcoming safety changes to district technology.