**District**

On Wednesday, March 2nd, District Professional Development Chairperson, Mr. Brian McDavitt, and District Professional Development Vice-Chairperson, Mrs. Angie Davis, met at Central Office to review the Mentor/Mentoree processes in the district. On that day, Mr. McDavitt and Mrs. Davis worked diligently to put all of the Mentor/Mentoree information, forms, paperwork, and other items into Google. These items will be available for all first and second year mentors and mentorees beginning in August of 2016. This online process will allow for less paper shuffling, as well as automatic turn in of required mentoring forms. The next step in organizing all of the the information and paperwork created was in designing a webpage for staff members to access. This was also accomplished on this day. The District-wide PDC is working hard for all staff members in the district and this a small glimpse into the work it takes. Thanks goes to Brian and Angie for their dedication to continued improvement in the district.

**Primary School**

Everyone at the Primary School is integrating learning with themes and events. Our biggest excitement has been Dr. Seuss Week, with stories, costumes, and treats like green eggs and ham. This coming week will bring Dollars and Donuts with Dads on March 10, and a building-wide pajama day for Missouri Read-In Day on March 11. Students at each grade level will have choices of classrooms to visit in the morning to hear different books read by various staff members. March is Music in our Schools Month, and the first graders are busy preparing for their spring performance on March 22. 1st. and 2nd. graders are looking forward to upcoming Grandparents’ Days and field trips. All grade levels have now completed Test C of Discovery Education reading and math benchmark assessments. Building professional development has focused on our NEE indicators, especially the use of academic language in our primary classrooms, and revising our quarterly pacing guides for reading and math. This month we will add a school culture survey as a follow-up to our commitment to improving trust, communication, and organizational history.

**Elementary School**

February 29th-March 4th we celebrated READ Across AMERICA week in conjunction with the Book Fair. Throughout the building you could see classroom doors skillfully decorated to represent teachers’ favorite books, you could hear guest readers sharing a beloved story, you could see that students and staff were feeling “groovy about reading” on 1970’s day and the aroma of popcorn filled the halls as students enjoyed a snack and “popped” open a great book.
Ms. Cheryl Williams, a representative from Hallmark’s Kaleidoscope in Kansas City, visited our school last week. Ms. Williams hopes to collaborate with Mrs. Herrera to provide professional development for other principals in the Kansas City area on how to create a school climate in which art integrated learning is possible. Mrs. Herrera took her on a tour of the ES and introduced her to our art teacher, Nicole Albin. It was a wonderful way to kick-off the month of March.

Here is a snapshot of what lies ahead for this week:

- Students are taking their Unit 3 Reading and Writing assessments as we prepare for the end of 3rd quarter. Teachers will meet to calibrate their scoring expectations.

- On March 10th students will spend the whole day in MATH activities as they visit stations throughout the building such as Geo-panes, Coordinate Grids, Fraction Basketball, Pretzel Graphing Penny Boats, and Algebraic Thinking. We LOVE Math Day and are excited about the learning that will occur. Thank you to the Math and Science Committee for organizing this event.

- Miss Schuette and Miss Bowman have started an after school book club. They are reading *The Landry News* by Andrew Clements with students who joined the club! We hope this is the beginning of many more book club opportunities.

- Last week’s High Five Character Award students are pictured here:

**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

Congratulations to this week’s Students of the Week! They are: Haley Ross, Logan Leiker, Victoria Nickols, Jay Shuler, Joslyn Allen and Jozlyne Rivera. They were recognized by their teachers for exhibiting outstanding character traits and deeds!

Congratulations to the PHIS Students of the Month for March: Emma Young, Lydia Gentry, Alena Scrogam, Lydia Mannino, Reagan Kimrey, Nathan Kobie, Josie Brownsberger, Landon Martin, Duncan Perkins, Grace McKee, Serenity Heuwinkel, Logan Huslig and Joey Gomez. These students were nominated by their peers for exhibiting the character trait kindness. We are so proud of them!
Updated info regarding Pennies for Patients Project: This activity took place from February 1-19 to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Each team collected coins during the three week period and the team with the most money earned a popcorn party which was team 5A. Each day during our Morning Motivator one of our PSC/FOR members read a brief statement to encourage and motivate students to give generously. We are excited to report that PHIS students raised $185.42 for this cause! Kindness is powerful!

Mrs. Courtney Williams, MS Choir Director, spoke to 6th graders on February 22. Her presentation provided information regarding music opportunities at the Middle school for next year. She will be back in our building again in March for auditions. Mrs. Williams’ mini assembly provided our sixth graders with additional information that helped them with important decision making and planning. Additionally, parents and students received an enrollment form to assist with the process; students enrolled for MS elective classes on February 29th.

During the week of February 22nd, high school DECA students interviewed 6th grade students as part of the Blue Springs School of Economics (BSEE) fieldtrip process. Our students were dressed for success as they interviewed for various job positions that they can experience while at BSEE. This was an authentic learning experience for our 6th graders as well as the DECA students. Some of the interview questions included:

1. Why do you think you would be good at ____ job?
2. Do you have any experience (such as jobs, chores or interests) that would help you do this job?
3. Do you prefer to work with others or by yourself? Why?

The feedback from the interviews was provided to the 6th grade teachers who will take it into consideration when assigning students to various jobs/roles while on their fieldtrip. Students have been working hard preparing for their fieldtrip experience which is scheduled in April. Students and teachers are equally excited! We thank Mrs. Franklin, HS DECA teacher, for allowing HS students to participate in this learning opportunity.
On Mar. 2, PHIS students enjoyed participating in activities centered on Dr. Seuss and reading his books!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

7th grade science is starting on Astronomy. This week we will be discussing rotation, revolution, and orbital motion. Students will be completing interactive notes in their journals about Earth’s seasons. We will also be discussing tides, solar eclipses and lunar eclipses. Students will be working with the teacher to create anchor charts on commonly confused vocabulary words: rotation and revolution.

We have spent a lot of time adding to the interactive notes that students take in their journals. Students will create an interactive notes foldable in their journals about seasons. Students will draw the Earth’s placement in orbit around the sun and then take notes about sunlight angles.

Once we finish learning about the Earth’s orbital motion, we will move on to the other inner planets. This is where students will be creating iMovies with the green screens about the differences between Earth and the other inner planets.

The 8th grade science classes are completing a unit over Plate Tectonics. This unit consists of Earth's Interior, Convection Currents, Continental Drift, Seafloor Spreading, and the Theory of Plate Tectonics. Interactive notes are used to help students connect the text to illustrations, which helps in explanation and retention of materials.

Students relate to Alfred Wegner and other scientists of his time using a debate format. Students are grouped into scientists who support Wegner's theory of
Students use food coloring and hot water to conduct a lab to show a convection currents’ path. They investigate how convection currents in the Earth create the force that moves tectonic plates. Show a convection currents’ path.

Students also create anchor charts that show key ideas, examples, and illustrations of sea-floor spreading and the theory of plate tectonics. While students are presenting these anchor charts, the other groups analyze and revise key ideas from the presentation into their own annotations in a “student teaching student” lesson format.

In the upcoming weeks, 8th graders will be learning about and conducting identification labs over different minerals and rocks. We will also do some short, weekly science reviews/practice tests that cover a variety of topics from 6th through 8th grade to help students prepare for the 8th grade science MAP test.

**High School**
Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) teamed up with the Red Cross to host a blood drive at Pleasant Hill High School on Monday. Sixty-one students and staff members signed up to donate blood, and from that we were able to collect a total of 51 units. A collection that size can potentially save 153 lives!

Mrs. Case’s Geometry classes studied surface area by creating robots from recycled materials. Students had to calculate the surface area of the robot in order to receive the correct amount of tin foil so that they could cover their robot. As students worked they
discovered how accurate their calculations were based on the shortage or excess amount of tin foil they had at the end. Topics covered in this project included nets, surface area calculations, and conversions. Students also worked on their cooperation skills as the project was completed in partners. The finished robots are currently displayed in the high school library.

![Image of students with robots]

**TECHNOLOGY**

The Technology Department staff has been busy working on many planned upgrades to district technology services and equipment. The most recently implemented was the phone upgrades which allow all users to receive a copy of their voicemails through their email as well as their desk phones. The department is also going through the e-Rate process to receive funding for the wireless network and fiber line upgrades planned for the summer. In preparation for next fall, an asset management system is being integrated with our existing Library management systems so that the district will be able manage the distribution of Chromebooks to all staff and high school students over the coming months. Another exciting change is a switch from paper based student registration to online registration. This upgrade will save our families and our office staff much time and resources in preparation for our enrollment/residency nights. We appreciate the patience of all of the district patrons as we’ve implemented many new changes. We look forward to the coming months as we play our part in preparing for our district’s future.

**Special Services**

**Primary**
Georgette Harrald
Early Childhood Special Education
Little Rooster Learning Center

Several students from Mrs. Smith’s high school Child Development II class have been visiting the Little Rooster Learning Center afternoon class. The students have really enjoyed learning from each other. On one visit, the older students taught the younger kiddos how to play tag and hide and seek during recess. In the pictures below, the younger kids loved “reading” books that the high school students created using iPads purchased from grant money. The high school students used book creator to create ibooks to help the Early Childhood students learn their colors, shapes, letter and letter sounds.
Elementary
Ashley Lewis 3rd grade co-teacher
Mrs. Martin
I CAN research and engineer a paper airplane that can carry the most weight possible.

Objective: Students will create an airplane that can fly with the most weight possible (weight from coins).

This week students read stories from our Wonders Curriculum about how people in history invented things to make life easier. After reading some of these stories we presented our students with a challenge. The challenge was to have them research paper airplanes and design one that could carry the most weight possible (we used coins for the weight) while still flying straight for 10 feet. The groups had three trials to attempt their furthest flight. After each trial students were allowed to go and perfect their airplane for the next flight attempt. As the students worked they filled out a worksheet to guide them. Some of the questions we asked them to answer were to describe how they incorporated science, if they incorporated any math or technology what did they use it for, describe the designing process and then a reflection page at the end after the assignment was over. The students enjoyed building these airplanes and competing with one another to see who could get their airplane to fly the furthest.
Objective:
I can review for adding and subtracting fraction test.

Why:
to help better understand fractions.

In our 5th grade co-teaching Math classrooms, we are studying for a math test coming up next week. The students that were struggling came with me and we worked as a group reteaching the lesson and going over the problems. We worked each problem together and each student was allowed to give their input for each problem. This small group helped the students better understand fraction with adding and subtracting. This activity was engaging for all students and all students participated in the lesson.

Middle School
Danielle Justus
Self Contained Special Education ELA 7th and 8th grade

7th and 8th graders in ELA special education have been working on citing several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. We have also learned how to determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.7.2

Using the Scholastic Action magazines students read about a boy named Chase who has Autism. He was a very picky eater when he was younger which is something that children with Autism can struggle with due to sensor and texture issues. His mom said he only ate 5 different foods. She was worried for his health. Chase started watching cooking shows and found his passion for cooking. The article is called, “Cooking up His Future.” Chase has since learned to try the foods he makes and has a cooking show on youtube called Chase N Yur Face cooking. He has overcome many communication and social struggles by having this show. He also has had many famous chefs on his show. After reading the article and watching his show the kids did a vocabulary review from the article, then cited text evidence from the article about how cooking changed Chase’s life. Then, as a class, we determined the central ideas. In their student Journals they gave a short summary. The student’s really enjoyed this article review because they could relate to Chase in different ways.
At the high school, we have been working very hard learning all about the different human body systems in our science class. We have explored the digestive system, nervous system, respiratory system, circulatory system, muscular system, and many more. Currently, students have been exploring the skeletal system. Students started by taking notes and viewing a powerpoint that gave very important information about the skeletal system. Students then had the opportunity to create their own model of the skeletal system using Q-tips. They were required to label at least 10 of the major bones found in the human body. When finished, students had the opportunity to present their skeletal system model to the rest of the class. Models were displayed in the classroom and will also be used as a study tool at the end of the unit. We have had a blast learning all about the skeletal system and other human body systems!

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

Highlights:

1. Spring Sports are up and rolling! Baseball, Track, Girls Soccer and Boys Golf have one week under their belts and looking good for the coming season! There will be a home soccer jamboree on March 11th at 5pm. The baseball team plays its first home game on March 18th vs Marshall and the track team begins March 24th (JV at Sherwood) and 29th (varsity at Grain Valley). The golf team begins its season March 18th at the Oak Grove Tournament!
2. Speech & Debate: The speech and debate team heads into the final portion of their season with competitions at Park Hill South and Raytown South High Schools. The final push involves setting themselves up for success to qualify for nationals this summer. Best of luck to the speech and debate team!

3. Choir: The choir performed at the State Music Festival Monday at Paseo Academy where four choirs in all sang. Results were not available at the time of this publication. The show choirs performed at Sedalia this past weekend for their final competition of the year. What a year they’ve had!

4. Pleasant Hill is hosting the MRVC Scholar Bowl Tournament Tuesday March 8th at Blue River Community College. The Roosters Varsity and JV squads are looking forward to competing against a strong field of teams. Wish the kids the best of luck if you see them!

5. The winter sports will be holding their annual awards ceremony on Thursday March 17th at 6pm. Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Wrestling and Cheer will be honored at this event. The groups will meet in the commons to begin with a short reception and then split into three separate venues for their awards.

6. 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 kid

**FACILITIES**

District Health Services

The 2015-16 school year began a transition in the district's Lead Nursing position from a part-time to a full-time position. The District has benefited from the change in many ways. Lora Watson (Lead Nurse) has taken over the duties of finding substitute nurses and devising plans to cover health rooms when nurses are absent from their building. She has been able to conduct more staff training to ensure health and safety needs are being met.

Mrs. Watson is an integral member of the District Safety Committee bringing the committee regular updates on health challenges taking place in the district. She is also a vital member of the District Wellness Committee growing the opportunities for staff members to lead healthier lives. Mrs. Watson this year has led three “Wellness Challenges” and a fourth is ready to begin. Lora acts as the liaison between the Blue Cross Blue Shield representative and our staff in these challenges.

In addition, Mrs. Watson has been able to ensure District Policy and Procedure Manuals are up to date and to revise and create forms that better facilitate the program. Mrs. Watson has transferred some clerical items, such as data entry and required reports, from the building nurses to her duties allowing them more time for student needs.

Mrs. Watson was instrumental in bringing Dental Screenings back to the Intermediate School working with Cass County Dental Clinic. Over 160 students were screened through this program. Mrs. Watson continues to look for additional programs which will benefit our student and staff health.