DISTRICT
State Assessment Update

The Pleasant Hill School District has been participating in the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) testing for the past month. The testing season began with the high school ACT test for all juniors followed by the End of Course Exams. The Elementary then began their Grade-Level Assessments, followed by the Intermediate School. The final building to begin testing was the Middle School. The Middle School will finalize their Grade-Level Assessments on May 11th, with make-ups scheduled for May 12th. This year we had a Quality Assurance visit from DESE. This visit took place the first day of EOC testing at the High School. The visit took place in an English II classroom, where the DESE representative monitored the entire testing procedure, interviewed the teacher, Mrs. Jakqualyn Boden, who was administering the test, and interviewed the District Test Coordinator, Dr. Becky Gallagher. The visit was a success and Pleasant Hill R-III School District was well prepared for testing and administered the testing session without any irregularities.

It is a relief to all to have this year's State Assessments almost complete! A special thank you goes to the Technology Department and the building counselors for keeping the testing process running smoothly across the district!

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Library Media Specialist Mrs. Tricia Beaman returned from the annual Missouri Association of School Librarians' conference with lots of information and ideas. Mrs. Beaman and Carrie Hardin from PHHS gave a presentation at the conference titled "Genrefication, one year later: Why we love it!" Mrs. Beaman is organizing our summer reading challenge for PS students, with different options and interesting ways to participate. Our final Scholastic Book Fair of the year will be the week of May 9. She inspired our Building Improvement Team to revise part of our vision statement from “Whatever it takes!” to “Every Child, Every Day”!

PS students raised $263 in donations on Hat Day to support Camp Quality of Greater Kansas City, which sponsors summer camp opportunities for children with cancer.

Students in all grade levels have been taking Discovery Education benchmark assessments in both reading and math, and the Gates/MacGinitie reading test. Results will indicate individual student achievement as well as a range of growth per grade level, helping us make decisions about instruction.

Kindergarteners have been practicing extensively and with great enthusiasm for their upcoming spring performance at the high school gym on Tuesday, May 3. This is a collaborative effort between music teacher Ms. Aly Oparnico and PE teacher Mrs. Janet Anderson, along with a lot of staff assistance on the night of the program.

Teachers and I have been meeting to review placement requests from parents and student needs in order to make decisions about classroom assignments for next year. Kindergarten class lists will be posted online on May 6, in preparation for Kindergarten Round-
Up on May 9. Incoming kindergarteners will meet their teachers, visit their classrooms, and practice getting a “snack” in the cafeteria, while I give parents information to assist with their children’s transition to a full school day.

**Elementary School**

We are officially done with the 2016 State Testing and are excited about the week ahead. Tonight, May 2nd, we will host our Elementary Extravaganza from 6:00-8:00 pm.

PHES families can enjoy the beautiful artwork from second semester and the student work that showcases our theme: “**Around the World in 90 Days**”. The evening will be divided into 15 minute station starting at 6:00 pm and concluding at 8:00 pm. Stations include: Bowling from Africa in the gym, Chinese Shadow puppet in the art room, Visit the 7 Wonders of the World-green screen technology in the library, explore Antarctica, plant African Vinca flowers, use Google Earth to explore South America, henna designs from the Middle East, boomerangs from Australia, make music with Maracas, construct landmarks of Europe and create Egyptian Hieroglyphics. Our 3rd grade families will be invited to listen to their students perform songs from around the world under the direction on Mrs. Norman, our music teacher.

On Thursday, our 4th graders will head to the Zoo and on Friday Mrs. Reeves has organized another wonderful Field Day experience for our students. Here are some other special activities taking place in classrooms:

- Mr. McDavitt's class participated in a Google Hangout with Mrs. Pickett's third graders from Cure of Ars and Dr. Annie Todt from Give Hope, Fight Poverty. Annie presented information about the work her organization does to help children in Swaziland, Africa. Give Hope, Fight Poverty provides these children with resources for health care and education. After our Hangout was over, students created infographics describing the issues facing Swaziland and how we can help.

- Mrs. Cook's students examined the daily life of three children from Africa. They created a daily schedule for the students and determined the elapsed time from one activity to another. They transferred this information to a twenty four hour clock to represent the day. Next, students repeated the process with their own schedule. Finally students compared and contrasted their day with that of a student's from Africa.

- Mrs. Martin's third graders created blueprints for their dream homes, then headed to the “home expo” to design the interior of their homes with samples from all the departments. They calculated the cost of the flooring, wall design and even the countertops.
Congratulations to this week's **Students of the Week**! They are: Ale Scrogham, Haley Ross, Grace McKee, Ashlie Wheeldon, Ema Graham and Natalie Wood. They were recognized by their teachers for exhibiting outstanding character traits and deeds!

Congratulations to the **PHIS Students of the Month** for May: Ellie Shull, Chloe More, Taliya Guenther, Braidy Moore, Kole Starlin, Ema Graham, Brooklyn Harrison, Sam Fenton, Riley Cole, Cason Driver, Isaac Bledsoe, Jackson Hunt and Jordan Mason. These students were nominated by their peers for exhibiting the character trait, perseverance. We are so proud of them!

Students have been diligently taking the MAP test. Their hard work and perseverance has been evident. We appreciate their commitment and level of seriousness for the assessment. Throughout testing, students have participated in several brain breaks and celebrations. Our final celebration will take place on May 13. Many thanks to our Building Climate Committee for organizing this day for students. Thanks also to Mrs. Arenson, our library media specialist for bringing the library to the cafeteria. Due to MAP testing taking place in the library, its been open on a limited basis. This didn't interfere with checking out books—a mobile checkout station was available during all lunch shifts!

Positive School Climate/Friends of Rachel students organized a celebration for National High Five Day! Students gave at least 5 high fives or virtual high fives to each other in order to cheer each other on, celebrate one another and to focus on perseverance!
The Middle School Bands are currently putting the finishing touches on our concert music for our final concert of the year on Thursday, May 5th. The seventh grade band will be opening their portion of the concert with a fun piece entitled *Mouthpiece Mania* that features our trumpet section on mouthpieces only. We have been working hard to use our instruments to express emotion through the next piece, *All is Well*. The last piece fits the personality of the 2016 7th grade band very well as it is very energetic and fun. They will close their portion of the concert with *Snakebite*.

The eighth grade band has been exploring tone color along with articulation while creating various sounds that would be heard near a train station or crossing for their concert opener, *The Great Locomotive Chase*. The second piece they will perform is entitled, *To Risk Everything for a Dream*. This piece highlights the expression that we have worked on displaying through our instruments this year. The eighth grade will finish their portion of the concert with *The Lion King*. This is an incredibly challenging piece of music rhythmically as well as technically. We hope to see you at the concert so you can hear firsthand the hard work, commitment and dedication these students have poured into their craft as musicians this year. You won’t be disappointed! Please join us in the commons of the High School after the concert for a reception while also listening to the middle school and high school jazz bands perform.
High School
5/2/16

Congratulations to Senior Brianna Shuler. She has been selected as one of eight recipients of the 2016 Women Legislators of Missouri scholarship from the Missouri Legislature. Brianna was awarded this scholarship in a special event at the Missouri Capitol on April 18th.

PHHS Sophomore Noah DesCombesc to attend a recognition service at the Missouri State Capitol. Noah and his team members were recognized for representing Missouri in the 2015 National 4-H Shooting Sports Competition. Missouri won the national competition, competing against 34 other states. Noah was one of four members of the shotgun team. His team took 2nd at nationals for trap and Noah individually tied for 10th. He was presented with a resolution and introduced on the House floor by Representative Rick Brattin and then on the Senate floor by Senator Ed Emery.

Calculus students applied their integration skills to calculate the volume of donuts. They worked with ideas of rotation and integration. Some techniques they utilized where modeling their problem using a Cartesian Coordinate plane, applying algebraic equations that accurately represented the situation, and then utilizing newly learned skills involving integration of solids being revolved around the y-axis. This
activity was a challenge for students with some having to rework equations when answers did not match expectations. In the end everyone enjoyed finishing class with a donut break.

Special Services

Primary
Georgette Harrald
Early Childhood Special Education
Little Rooster Learning Center
The students in the Little Rooster Learning Center have been working hard these past two weeks learning about the solar system, especially our planet, Earth. We practiced our listening and comprehension skills by hearing several read-alouds and answering questions. We practiced our counting skills by counting planets and various objects in those books. We learned a bit about ordering and sequencing by putting the planets in order (from closest to the sun to farthest from the sun) and discussed the different colors of each planet. We painted with marbleized shaving cream and talked about math terms when we discussed which planet was larger and/or smaller. To celebrate Earth Day, we talked about ways we could help care for Mother Earth and then made a yummy “dirt” snack with worms!

Elementary
Miss Lewis- 3rd grade co-teacher
Mrs. Martin
I CAN use my knowledge of area and perimeter to measure out my dream home.

Objective: Students will construct a dream home on graph paper and then find the area and perimeter to determine the amount of materials they need to decorate the interior.

Today students kicked off their Dream Home PBL! Everyone was put into a group and within each group students constructed what their dream home would look like. Some homes had several rooms and floors, while others had extra things like a movie room, or a reading area. Each group worked together to do this. After their home was designed, they were asked to find the square footage of their house. Once the square footage was found and approved by the teacher, they were then allowed to “shop” for the materials that they would like to decorate with. They shopped among samples that teachers had gotten from Home Depot. The students had a great time designing their homes and will continue working on the interior design of their home for the next couple weeks.
Intermediate
5th Grade Time for Kids
Mrs. Armstrong 5th grade Co-Teaching ELA
Objective: I can read an article to determine the author’s purpose
Why: to help better understand nonfiction reading material.
In our 5th grade co-teaching ELA classroom, we are reading nonfiction reading material in the Time for Kids magazine. The students read an article called “Bug Business.” We talked about how they would feel eating bugs for dinner. We also discussed if they would be willing to go to a restaurant that served bugs on their menu. We had good discussions in class about their opinion about eating bugs. We then watched a short video clip about cricket farms and how they smoked crickets for human consumptions. The video interested the students into looking further into bug eating.

Middle School
Danielle Justus
Self Contained Special Education ELA 7th and 8th grade
This past month ELA classes have been studying poetry and how figurative language is used within poems. The students even have written several of their own poems. The students are able to determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including the use of figurative language; and analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds on a specific verse or stanza of a poem. To end our poetry unit the students were asked to write two sentences describing their favorite food and then as a group we compiled it into one poem through the use of figurative language and our knowledge about poems. They did great working as a team to make their poem flow and it was very creative.

Group Poem: Delicious Foods

Individual Poems throughout unit focused on outside imagery using figurative language.

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

Highlights:

1. Chicks Soccer: The Chicks are having a solid season in case you’ve missed it! They are 15-1 this season. Coach Al and Coach Ortiz have the girls firing on all cylinders as they move into the final stretch of their season. This week they travel to O’Hara (Monday) and Grain Valley (Tuesday). They will host Van Horn for Senior Night on Thursday. They will wrap up the regular season next Monday in Harrisonville looking for redemption for their only loss of the season. The district tournament will take place in Clinton this year beginning on May 17th.

2. Rooster Baseball: The Rooster baseball club is playing well despite an injury or two. This past week they collected wins vs. Marshall, Odessa and O’Hara. Their contest vs Harrisonville Friday was postponed due to rain. This week they will play at Grain Valley (Monday), at Excelsior Springs (Tuesday) and home to Oak Grove on Thursday. Their district tournament will take place at KC 3&2 Stadium (Pembroke Hill host) on May 14th.

3. Track & Field: The Rooster & Chicks had a big weekend a week ago at the Kansas Relays. Logan Blomquist performed brilliantly bringing home championships in both the shot put and the discus. Donna Borer finished a resounding 4th place in the discus. The ladies 4X200 brought home a school record while performing well in the 4X100. Luke Woodall took 3rd in the pole vault! The Roosters and Chicks will host the MRVC West Finale meet on Tuesday this week. The MRVC West Conference meet will be held at Eklund this Friday! Admission will be $5 for all patrons. (No passes!) Also…the teams had 30 girls and 31 boys come out for track this year and 29 girls and all 30 boys are still with us at the end of the season. This is particularly noteworthy on the girl’s side where numbers are up and some of our best contributors are among the freshman and sophomore classes!

4. Rooster Golf: The Roosters golf team continues their excellence by taking their show on the road at the District Golf Tournament in Grandview.

5. Music Contest in Columbia proved to be an awesome experience for many of our musicians…
The choral side received 23 “1” ratings at the District solo/ensemble music festival. The also received 9 “1” ratings and 11 “2” ratings at State Music solo/ensemble music festival held this past weekend. The Instrumental side brought home 3 “1” ratings and 7 “2” ratings at the state festival. Their district festival performance included 11 “1” ratings and 23 “2” ratings.

6. It's been a strong spring for our athletic teams. We have good programs our parents and community can be proud of. Please take some time to make it out to a game, golf match or track meet to witness greatness!

**Facilities**

Transportation

Durham Bus Company (our transportation provider) underwent its annual inspections by the Highway Patrol on April 5, 2016. The Highway Patrol inspected 24 buses during their inspection process. All 24 buses passed inspection at 100% on the first inspection passed through. This marks quite an accomplishment as very minor details can fail a bus in the inspection process. Items such as a light bulb being out which could have been caused by vibration on the way to the inspection site could fail a bus in the inspection process.