**DISTRICT HONORED BY PROJECT LEAD THE WAY**

Nearly 900 participants convened at Timberland High School, in Wentzville, MO, for the 5th Annual Missouri Project Lead The Way State Conference held October 28-29, 2016. Attendees included teachers, students, administrators, exhibitors, non-profits, industry leaders and dignitaries from the state and local government. Over 100 breakout sessions and workshops were available. The goal was to share, collaborate, recognize achievement and increase awareness for PLTW and STEM training throughout the state of Missouri.

The Pleasant Hill R-III School District was one of only twenty-three districts in the State of Missouri to be honored with the 100% Student Access Award. This award recognizes districts for offering Launch, Gateway, and all PLTW pathways at the high school level in the district.

David Hosick, Project Lead the Way Senior Affiliate Director, Missouri S&T, stated, "We appreciate all they do to inspire and engage students to be the leaders of the future. We applaud them for a job well done."

Governor Jay Nixon was on hand at the awards banquet to commend the awardees individually. Dr. Vince Bertram, President and CEO of National PLTW congratulated and presented each district with their award.

The PLTW Conference is held each year in various locations around the state. Next year, it will be held Nov. 5 and 6 in Blue Springs, MO.

**PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Primary School staff and students had weeks of fun with Thanksgiving projects, culminating with songs, feasts, and Stone Soup on Nov. 22. The students especially enjoyed learning about Native American symbols in art, designing turkey disguises, and writing about how to cook a turkey. Muffins and Mittens with Moms drew a record crowd this year, and at our monthly assembly, students were proud to present the Lay Clergy with the over 500 winter accessory items that we received as donations. Now we’re preparing for the next big holiday season, with “The Big Chill” performed by 2nd graders on Dec. 6, run-away gingerbread men, and visits from elves and Santa. The PTO Holiday Shop and the Scholastic Book Fair will be in our building the second week in December. Students are taking the second test of the Discovery Education online benchmark assessments, and teachers are looking forward to K-5 professional development on Dec. 2.
Elementary School

Spotlight on Mrs. Reeves' Physical Education Class

Students in the PE classes have been enjoying new equipments and routines with a program called DrumFIT. In addition to being a great source of physical activity DrumFIT is a great source of physical activity and also provides essential 'Brain Fitness’ components such as: fine motor skills, coordination, reflexes, cross lateral movement, bilateral movement, spatial awareness, eye hand coordination, unilateral movement and cognitive association.

DrumFIT

- Raises heart rate
- Boosts creativity
- Improves hand-eye coordination
- Builds brain connections
- Improves performance in the classroom
- And it's crazy fun!

Our students also took part in Stack Up 2016 - Speed Stacking Day

Students at PHES raise money for heart disease

The students raised $4392.68 this year doing Jump Rope for Heart. A total of $14295.68 the past three years!
Elks National Hoop Shoot PHES Winners

Brady Roe
Addisyn Fidler
Austin Anglin
Brittney Boileau

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

Perhaps you have heard of exit rooms or escape rooms. They are one of the newest fads in entertainment. Our students became immersed in the concept when they read the book, *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library* written by Chris Grabenstein. Students loved this book with the creative plot and enticing characters. One of the most powerful ways to help students with the love reading as well as writing is to have the opportunity to discuss the topic with authors. And that is exactly what we did with Mr. Grabenstein. On November 16, we were able to Skype with him; he was located in his New York apartment/office. We were able to look out his window and see the city. He shared his office with us and was a very engaging speaker! Students wrote and asked their own questions such as:

- How did you feel when you/your book won the Mark Twain Award?
- How long did it take to write the book? How long does it take you on the average to write a book?
- Who is your favorite character from your books and why?
- Are any of the characters in the book based on people you know in real life?

This was a great learning experience.

The PHIS Students of the Week are: Ariana Poss, Jackson Shuler, Katie Meiries, Mavrick Crider, Connor Cahill, and Emily Millard. They were selected for exhibiting outstanding character traits and performing good deeds. We congratulate them and their families!

5th graders showed their talent through reader’s theater productions which mostly emphasized the theme of Coming to the New World and Moving West. Reader’s theater is an engaging strategy that supports all curriculum areas. It is great for building fluency through
repeated exposure to the text, increasing comprehension, increasing reading motivation and it helps students with their confidence. We want to thank our guests for joining us and sharing the afternoon with us!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

*Upper Left and Center:* Mrs. Williams’ choir and general music students occupy the band and guidance rooms respectively. **Upper Right:** Girls’ basketball gets underway at the Intermediate School. **Lower:** Mrs. Dowdy’s and Mr. Campbell’s PE classes took advantage of warm temperatures to play lacrosse, to play soccer, and to run the mile.

**Pleasant Hill Middle School**

What do you do when the gym needs a rest? Marshall your resources and adapt. With the help of many in the district, Pleasant Hill Middle School has adjusted PE and choir class locations; revamped the morning routine; and relocated winter athletic practices and contests. Despite missing one of the central hubs of our building, teaching and learning continues. Students will attend the PHMS Career Fair on the morning of November 30. Over twenty professionals will deliver twenty-five-minute sessions to groups of middle school students.

*Left:* Social studies teachers use release time to develop curriculum and pacing guides. **Middle:** Ms. Justus’ class enjoys reading in the purple chairs in the library. **Right:** Wrestling hosts a quad at the high school.
The Counseling Center continues to recognize students and staff who demonstrate outstanding character in the high school. One boy and girl from each grade level (and one overall staff member) will be selected by the faculty/staff monthly and honored for exhibiting that particular trait. The Character trait for October was *Tolerance - Embracing differences and treating others the way you want to be treated*. The following students were selected as a champion of character for exhibiting this trait: Freshmen - Jayden Reyes, Alyssa Math, Sophomores - Michael Abney, Grace Kenyon, Juniors - Noah Descombes, Grace Keilholz, Seniors - Cameron McCarty, Olivia Ferdig. Ms. Jessica Janis was selected as the Staff Champion of Character for Cooperation. Each champion of character received a gift certificate sponsored by El Mazatlan. Alberto Ramirez, manager was unable to attend for the photo but wished to congratulate each recipient. This certificate was presented to students on November 16th, which is the National Day for Tolerance.

Pleasant Hill Agriculture Students can earn up to 15 hours of dual credit through UCM and MSU at about half-cost tuition. Classes that offer dual credit options are: Welding, Small Engines and Ag Structures; Conservation of Natural Resources and Wildlife Management; Horticulture/Greenhouse Management; Landscaping and Turf Management; Equine Science; Advanced Livestock/Animal Science. In addition to dual credit options, Welding II students can earn up to 6 hours of articulated credit through State Technical College (Linn State). Students enrolled in Agriculture have the option to really enhance their high school classes and advance into their college or technical careers while still being enrolled as high school juniors and seniors!

**Horticulture:** Three Pleasant Hill FFA Agriculture Students taking Landscaping/Horticulture will be earning 4 hours of college dual credit through UCM in AGRI 1600. Students will be able to take the courses for about half-price tuition. Those enrolled are: Alex Moore, Mariah Thompson and Grace Keilholz.

**Ag. Mechanics:** Three Pleasant Hill FFA Agriculture Students enrolled in Ag Structures and Small Gas Engines will be earning 3 hours of college dual credit through UCM in AGRI 1200. Students enrolled are: Alex Moore, Mason Clarke and Derek Smith.

**Conservation:** Thirteen Pleasant Hill Agriculture/FFA Students taking Conservation of Natural Resources and Wildlife Management are enrolled in AGR 108 Conservation of Natural Resources through MSU. Students will be earning 2 hours of college credit which is new for the 2016-17 school year. Students taking advantage of the dual credit are: (Sitting) - Grace Keilholz, Mackenzie Robinson, Kaycee Kincaid, Shae Williams, Lauren Mann, Tori Parrott and (Standing) - Ashley McClenahan, Alyssa Coon, Peyton Schlueuter, Will Pryor, Brett Guthrie, Jayme Clevenger and Christina Waddle.
**SPECIAL SERVICES**

Kayla Heishman
This lesson is being taught in a co-teaching 6th grade English Language Arts (ELA) class. The unit of study is using the 7 writing traits to write a personal narrative. The lesson’s objective is to go through each of the seven writing traits in order to write a personal narrative. The students are utilizing The Seven Writing Traits and the Writer's Workshop in our Wonders Reading Curriculum to meet the objective. The students will use the online interactive version on Wonders to complete each writing trait with his/her personal narrative. The students have been given time to read and to grade expert models of personal narratives written by 6th grades around the country. These expert models were provided by the Wonders Program and by the content co-teacher Mrs. Faulk. The content that is being covered is using the 7 writing traits and the elements of a personal narrative. These elements include; written in first person point of view, developing characters and events through dialogue, using descriptive details, and describing the characters and setting using dialogue and descriptive details. The Writer's Workshop breaks down each writing trait online, and allows the students to continue to work and save their writing after each class period. Writing a personal narrative is the 6th week of our Wonders Reading Curriculum for each unit. The students will have time in the computer lab to develop and publish his/her personal narrative. The strategic teacher questions were: What are the elements of a personal narrative?, Which life event has transformed my thoughts, feelings, or opinions to write about in my personal narrative?, How can I use the 7 Writing Traits to develop a personal narrative?

Objective: Students will recognize and demonstrate an understanding of verbs.

Students were “Brainstorming” verbs that we use in everyday life. We came up with a list together, then read the list and discussed where those verbs would take place throughout our day. Students then came up with a list of “Thanksgiving Verbs” and we made pumpkin pie to display the verbs we know. Students worked on fine motor skills by cutting out a circle, coloring, and writing verbs. After the project was complete, the students demonstrated “following direction skills” with verbs by listening to a brain break video and completing the verbs that were a part of the song.
PLEASANT HILL ACTIVITIES… “IT’S A GREAT DAY TO BE A ROOSTER/CHICK!”

Highlights:

1. This week: The winter sports season is underway with a lot of excitement and high expectations for our athletic and academic teams!
   - The Rooster wrestling program competes at home this week with a quad on Tuesday (Winnetonka, Savannah and Benton) and the Steve Leslie tournament on Friday and Saturday.
   - The Chicks basketball team heads to St. Pius X on Thursday.
   - The Roosters play at Ray-Pec on Tuesday and then at Clinton on Friday!
   - The scholar bowl team hosts the first MRVC quad on Wednesday night.

2. Check out Coach Adamczyk on the Sonic Locker Room Show on Tuesday at 4:15pm on 1030am radio.
   www.soniclockerroom.com The program is aired weekly for Pleasant Hill. Past shows are archived on their website. Just click on the Rooster logo!

3. The first home basketball game will be December 8th with the Chicks hosting Raytown-South in a Triple-Header. The Rooster will take part in the DeSoto tournament the week of December 5th and will host Belton on December 13th.
**TECHNOLOGY**
The technology department has been conducting an internal audit of security practices and implementing changes to the network as a result of the audit. The next step in changing security practices will be to implement a program that will allow users to set their own network and Google passphrases. The rollout will be done in stages with all district staff and high school students, beginning this week with Central Office. At the upcoming technology committee meeting, time will be used to familiarize technology committee members can help network users in their building successfully enroll in the program, set their new passphrase and develop a timeline for implementation at all buildings.

**FACILITIES**

**Middle School Wrestling Room and Field House Locker Room Upgrades**

The Middle School Wrestling Room underwent recent changes in appearance. In combined efforts of Pleasant Hill Youth Wrestling, High School students and the District, the wrestling room had old wall mats removed, walls painted, lighting fixed and the office relocated. Students from the high school roughed in the new office area, Youth Wrestling purchased and donated a new floor mat and the District purchased and installed the new wall mat system. In addition, the lighting was repaired and the room repainted. Middle School custodian, Kelly Hart, painted the facility.

The locker room facilities at Eklund Field also underwent recent changes with the old lockers being replaced by larger wooden lockers. Pleasant Hill maintenance man, Mike Weinel, built the lockers, installed drinking fountains and repaired or replaced other plumbing in the facility. Kelly Hart painted the facility. Kelly Hart and Middle School custodian, Alan Borchert, installed the rubber flooring for the locker room.