PRIMARY SCHOOL

PS teachers held a total of 588 conferences last week, with families visiting classrooms, special education rooms, our library, gym, music room, art room, and Title I reading classes. Our parent volunteers and PTO members have been everywhere throughout the building recently, with meals for staff on parent/teacher conference nights, treats and games for fall parties on Oct. 31, and preparations for Muffins and Mittens with Moms on Nov. 17. We’ve maintained our focus on learning with multiple activities based on pumpkins, the upcoming election (will it be Crazy Clothes Day, Pajama Day, or Hat Day?), and National Young Readers’ Week. 2nd graders are looking forward to a field trip to the Museum at Prairiefire in Overland Park. Our new music teacher, Samantha Baldwin, is excited about her first concert: 1st and 2nd grade “concert choir” on Nov. 15.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Spotlight on Mrs. Albin’s Art Classes, Clubs and Family Nights

It is all about creativity in Mrs. Albin’s classroom! Students explore a variety of mediums and express their ideas. Students in third grade have studied Matisse and his cut paper designs. They created their own cut paper artwork in the same fashion that Matisse did. Fourth grade students have learned about taking a real object, like a leaf, and abstracting it by looking for its most basic organic and geometric shapes.

The Art Club has always helped to add beauty to the elementary school and this year is no exception. The student have been creating designs on ceiling tiles that will be placed in the 3rd and 4th grade hallways. The discs are lids from pharmaceutical bottles which have been glued down after a design was created by each small group. Making this an eco-friendly project as well.

Five times a year families are invited to come to school to create an art project with their child. The first one this year was in October. Families created Indian corn Crayon paintings.
Also, Congratulations to Abygail Widhalm! The PHES Student Art Gallery Award Recipient. We are very proud of her and her accomplishment.

**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

STUCO members gave back to community by providing childcare to parents while they attended conferences at the IS. Not only did these members engage in a community service project, they dressed up in Halloween costumes and had lots of fun!

Students of the Month for November are: Jack Akins, Campbell Gregory, Easton Cotter, Cameron Barnes, Troy Gustin, Jackson Ewing, Ethan Hesterberg, Emma Kleyh, Jay Cooper, Hailey Gentry, Easton Roe, and Jacob Hanes. These students were nominated by their peers for exhibiting the character trait, responsibility. It is a great honor for these students to be recognized by their classmates! Congratulations to each of them and their families!

Students of the Week are nominated by teachers for exhibiting outstanding character traits and doing good deeds. This week’s students are: Brielle Quilter, Jesse Ouyang, Liam Cox, Nathan Swilley, Addison Meeks, and Alex Dirck. Congratulations to each of them and their families!

During the evening of November 1, 5th grade students participated in PTO event. Mr. Adamczyk, our P.E. teacher, taught rhythm and dance through The Electric Slide and students performed this with enthusiasm. Mrs. Loethen, our art teacher, taught students about artist, Wayne Thiebaud; students created their own Thiebaud inspired dessert paintings which were on
display. Mrs. Greve’s computer class students created invitations and emailed them to their families. Mrs. Chandler’s music classes performed a variety of songs demonstrating their ability to keep a steady beat with instruments! Many thanks to the PHIS elective teachers for an entertaining PTO event!

Red Ribbon Week is celebrated annually as an anti-drug and violence awareness campaign. We participated in this recognition the week of Oct. 31. Our daily themes consisted of: “Real Heroes Don’t Do Drugs, Don’t Let Drugs Mix You Up, Wild about Being Drug Free, I Choose to be Healthy and Drug Free, and Red-y to Live a Drug-free Life.” Students were invited to dress the part each day—fun and educational.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

![Image](image1.jpg)

**Left:** Over 60 PHMS students received Trackmakers for scoring at the advanced level in last spring’s MAP assessments in math and English language arts. **Center:** UCM hosted all district honor choir on Saturday, November 5, and Mrs. Courtney Williams accompanied twelve PHMS students who participated. **Right:** On October 31, students show off their creative costumes.

Pleasant Hill Middle School held parent-teacher conferences October 24 and 26, and seventy-six percent of students were represented. Mrs. McManis took a group of eighth-grade art students on a field trip to learn about the Day of the Dead. Student Council has been busy. After organizing the first student dance on November 4, they organized a mock election on Monday, November 7. Not only do students vote in the popular election, but also learn about the electoral college as their advisory classes pretend to be states with electors. Student Council handed out “I voted” stickers to students Monday morning. In between Friday’s dance and Monday’s election, Mrs. Williams took twelve students on Saturday to all district honor choir at UCM, which was under the direction Missouri Western’s Elise Hepworth.

![Image](image2.jpg)

**Left:** Students enjoy dancing at the Fall dance in the gym on November 4. **Center:** A student making her vote count. **Right:** Ms. Janice Martin a student council hand out ballots before school Monday.
The Dual Credit Office of the University of Central Missouri and the Western Missouri Educational Technology Consortium (WeMET) funded a total of 18 student scholarships for the fall semester for students in the WeMET consortium taking dual credit courses from UCM. These scholarships will cover the cost of tuition for one dual credit course (up to three college credit hours).

This year there were 67 applications submitted by students in the 35 schools within the WeMET consortium. Two Pleasant Hill students were selected as scholarship recipients. Fiona Bolte-Bradhurst and Ellie Yoder will receive a credit to their student account to cover the cost of one dual credit course and will be presented with a certificate of accomplishment. This is Pleasant Hill’s first year in the WeMET consortium, and therefore Fiona and Ellie are the first students from PHHS ever to receive this scholarship.

All dual credit students taking courses from UCM are encouraged to apply for these scholarships which are offered in the fall and spring semester. This applies to students taking online, ITV, or face to face courses taught in house by Pleasant Hill instructors.

**SPECIAL SERVICES**

Fall STEAM in 2nd Grade

“I can use geometry to create a structure using the given materials.”

2nd graders at PHPS are getting introduced to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mechanics) integrated curriculum. Mrs. Pickett and Ms. Woodson’s co-teaching class created “bone bridges” from 20 q-tips, ten pipe cleaners, and ten popsicle sticks. The object was to use these materials to create the longest bridge possible. Students used multiple 2nd grade geometry concepts to create their structure and multiple 2nd grade measurement and data concepts to determine who had the longest bridge. Students also worked on perseverance, positive attitude, and problem solving skills when using strategies to create their structure.

“I can use measurement tools (rulers, measuring tape, scale) to collect data about my pumpkin.”

In Mrs. Diederich and Ms. Woodson’s 2nd grade co-teaching class, students performed various science experiments during a STEAM activity on pumpkins to determine mass, circumference, length, height, and weight. Students worked cooperatively in groups to collect data on their pumpkin. The students were challenged to develop an idea for an additional pumpkin experiment. Ideas ranged from cutting a pumpkin open to determining the distance a pumpkin could be shot from a sling shot. Students concluded their STEAM activity by decorating their pumpkins.
Objective: I can use trial and error to build the sturdiest tower.
Why?: To better understand the purpose of trial and error

In our 5th grade co-teaching ELA classroom, we are doing a STEM challenge. Our weekly unit objective was trial and error. The students were to build the tallest/sturdiest tower that would hold a marshmallow at the top without collapsing. The students were given spaghetti, tape, string, and a marshmallow. The students had to keep trying if their tower failed. Each group had 15 minutes to plan and create a structure. Each group tried their best using trial and error throughout the 15 minutes. The students used teamwork and collaboration to help build their tallest/sturdiest tower. The students were all engaged to help build their towers.

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

Highlights:
1. Chicks Volleyball: The Volleyball team had an outstanding season with a 2nd place finish a week ago in the state volleyball tournament. It is the second time in as many years earning a spot in the tournament. The team went 5-1 on the opening Friday to earn a spot in the championship match. The Chicks dropped two close games to Lutheran South in spirited matches. The support of the parents and students was outstanding considering the distance in travel. Congratulations to Coach Creason and the Chicks for a season that has made Pleasant Hill proud! The Chicks volleyball awards will be held Monday November 7th; 6pm.

2. Cross Country: The Rooster cross country team ran well this past weekend. Well enough to secure their second 5th place finish in as many years.
State Rooster XC team members:
   Freshman - Dakota Middleton (alt.)
   Freshman - Desmond Ewing
   Sophomore - Will Pryor
   Junior - Jerod Rottinghaus
   Junior - Shawn Gallagher
   Senior - Garrett Bakken
   Senior - Brayden Bonnesen
   Senior - Ryan Bolden

   The weather was perfect for a race. Senior Lauren Larkins represented the Chicks in the state meet and performed well in her 4th visit. The XC awards will be held November 20th; 3pm.

3. The Rooster Football Awards will be held Sunday November 20th; 3pm.
4. The Rooster Soccer awards will be held Wednesday November 9th; 6:30pm at the Intermediate School.
5. The Rooster Cheerleader awards will be held Monday November 7th; 6pm.
6. This week will be the Pleasant Hill High School theatrical performance of “The Addam's Family”. The shows will begin at 7pm Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Come out and check out a great musical!
7. The speech and debate team traveled to Knob Noster November 4-5. With 18 entries the team finished in 4th place. Both debate entries finished 3-1 taking 5th and 7th places. In oratory, we won 1st, 2nd and 5th. Other event finishes included 2nd in Radio Speaking, 1st in Dramatic Interpretation, 1st in International Extemporaneous Speaking and 1st in US Extemporaneous Speaking.
**DISTRICT**

**Benchmark Assessment Progress and Curriculum Work**

Over the past week, two webinars have taken place with Illuminate regarding our implementation of DnA, the new benchmark assessment tool. Following these two meetings, the behind the scenes work begins in the district with getting our Student Information System to “talk” to the DnA system, extracting school, course, teacher, and student information from SIS and uploading into DnA. The company tells us the implementation period is typically an eight week process from start to finish. We are currently in week three of the process. Once the data transfer is all complete, we will begin trainings locally to learn to use the new assessment product!

Many grade levels have continued their work with revision to existing lessons and curriculum documents this school year. The social studies teachers from grades 5 through 12 will meet next week at Central Office to continue their work which began this summer. The process will begin with creating/refining common assessments for each unit, followed by daily lessons for the unit. The work day will allow the social studies teachers to make headway on their curriculum documents.

At the November 3rd District Professional Development meeting, building reps discussed the work happening in each building on the Unit of Instruction. The Unit of Instruction is additional curriculum work which helps focus instruction to meet the needs of learners. The curriculum process, all across the district, continues to be an ongoing process of professional refinement. This is the way in which student achievement is positively impacted! Thank you to all teachers for this dedication to curriculum.

**TECHNOLOGY**

The technology department is excited to announce a new member of the family! Delphinia Matia Guyer was born on October 20, 2016 weighing 6 pounds 2.5 ounces and was 18.75 inches long. She, her parents and sister are now settling in at their home. Congratulations and warm wishes to them on their growing family!