DISTRICT

Pleasant Hill School District Approves Bookkeeper for Payroll and Human Resources

The Pleasant Hill R-III Board of Education has approved Mrs. Abby Webb as Bookkeeper for Payroll and Human Resources for the 2016-2017 school year. Mrs. Webb previously worked in a neighboring school district as a Benefits and Payroll Assistant for over 8 years, and she has over 25 years experience in bookkeeping and payroll.

Mrs. Webb has a certificate in Accounting/Data Processing from the National Career Institute and is a Pleasant Hill High School graduate. She is currently a resident of Pleasant Hill. Mrs. Webb is valued by others as an honest and hard working individual and is well respected by those with whom she works.

Mrs. Webb is delighted about her new role in the Pleasant Hill R-III School District and has enjoyed her short time in the district so far. She states, “It’s nice to be home! I have enjoyed reconnecting with people. Several employees have stopped by to let me know who they are and have shared stories of mutual friends and events.”

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Evidence of learning is everywhere at the PS! Students are researching, writing, illustrating, and problem-solving. Some good examples are: reading about the artist Matisse and painting “still lifes”; using K-W-L charts and finding interesting facts about gorillas, giraffes, penguins, etc.; writing as “robots” to clarify understanding of commands.

1st graders had a very successful field trip to the Kansas City Zoo. Preschool and kindergarteners are looking forward to pumpkin patch visits.

Ist. and 2nd. grade teachers are preparing for Curriculum Nights on Sept. 26 and Oct. 3, where parents will receive information about quarterly objectives, district and building initiatives, and our recommended reading lists. Recent professional development has centered around STEM activities, NEE Units of Instruction, and brain-based instructional strategies for high levels of cognitive engagement.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Spotlight on Mrs. Young’s Third Grade Class

These third graders just finished a “Take Me To Lunch” PBL using their addition strategies to figure the cost for a group to eat out. Student groups each “ate out” at a nice restaurant and ordered a minimum of three items. Once they calculated their total bill they checked their tablemates work and combined their totals to create a bill for the whole table. Students then compared and contrasted the bills from the various restaurants.
**Intermediate School**

Staff at PHIS engaged in collaborative conversations about our school mission statement. A mission statement is a statement or phrase that explains or describes the hopes we have for our students. It is a statement that describes what we believe in---what we are trying to achieve. We are proud to share our newly revised statements with you.

Additionally, our students have been engaging in various activities centered on the mission and vision. If you visit our school, you will see evidence of this throughout the building.

The mission of PHIS is to provide a comprehensive system of support to develop 21st century, life-long learners who master objectives through displaying character traits and work ethic necessary to collaborate, create, and communicate in and beyond the classroom.

Vision: At PHIS we believe we can and will reach our potential.

On September 13, PHIS hosted Curriculum Night for parents and guardians; the book fair was also open. This was the perfect platform to share our mission and vision. Parents followed a modified schedule that matched their child's daily schedule. During this evening, teachers shared important information regarding curriculum/content and procedures. We were excited to have this opportunity to partner with parents and communicate vital information. We thank our parents/guardians for sharing their evening with us!

Congratulations to the PHIS Students of the Week for Sept. 26-30. They are: Casey Carey, Calli Bloom, Emma Kleigh, Kole Starlin, Reagan Beaman, and Jack Ailshire. We are so proud of them!
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Left: Ms. Wingard’s Intro to Agriculture class grows cilantro plants in the window and basil outside the class in an herb garden. Right: The Chicks volleyball team celebrates a point at the PHMS tournament.

The middle school has had a great September. We have many students attending our before and after school clubs, like art and herpetology. Student council officers were elected last week and begin the task of representing the student body. We have hosted football games, a cross country meet, and a volleyball tournament; have had many students nominated for positive referrals by their teachers; and have begun assessing student achievement to guide us through the second half of first quarter. Our Project Lead Way laptops have been delivered to and set up in science classrooms. These will provide some effective hands-on labs and lessons for both seventh and eighth graders.

Left: Mrs. Dowdy has two students demonstrate proper throwing technique for a football unit. Right: A student takes a selfie with Mr. Reeves after a positive referral from his teacher.

HIGH SCHOOL

For the first project in the Principles of Engineering class, students constructed a model of all six simple machines. Using VEX kits, they built simple machines in order to practice their construction before they design and build their own compound machines. After the building phase, the students measured resistance and effort forces using Vernier instruments and software. The students then used these calculations to determine the mechanical advantages of each machine. This process of data collection will also be used when they construct their own compound machine using at least three or more of the simple machines that they practiced.

Students in PLTW IED (Introduction to Engineering Design) learn how to create one-point perspective drawings to show a realistic three-dimensional view of an object. Using 6 blocks, graph paper, and a straight edge, students identify one vanishing point on the horizon line and draw lines from distinctive points on the object to the vanishing point.
Students recreate blood spatter patterns in the lab

Unit 1.1 of PBS wrapped up with the examination of blood evidence from the crime scene of a fictional victim, Anna Garcia. While forensics was the focus, the goal was to become proficient at experimental design. Using a real life scenario, such as Anna’s mysterious death, gave students the opportunity to recognize the importance of solid experimental design and execution. Students have been and will continue to process physical evidence from the scene such as blood, hair, fingerprints, and shoeprints to understand the importance of purposeful documentation, precise collection of data, background research, strong experimental design, controlled procedures, and objective data analysis and reporting in the biomedical sciences. Students were not tested traditionally on this unit, instead, given the opportunity to design and execute an experiment to determine what event during Anna’s final minutes caused the pattern of blood spatter found at the scene. Students then analyzed their data and presented professional typed lab reports along with their most recent theories on Anna’s death. They are also maintaining a class “crime board” to track their progress and a list of suspects they have compiled as their research reveals new information. In unit 1.2 students will learn about the structure and function of DNA, how DNA is tied to inherited traits as well as genetic based diseases and have an opportunity to extract DNA from both plant and animal cells. At the end of this unit, they will be able to analyze the DNA from blood samples found at the crime scene and compare those profiles to their suspect list……..the mystery continues.

Special Services

It’s been a great start to the school year working with both Mrs. Martin and Ms. Schuette. We have been doing a lot of parallel teaching as well as centers. The best thing that we have done is implementing guided reading but with two groups at a time. By doing this, we are able to get more done and we are able to spend more time with each group. We have also been doing some great stations in math by working with regrouping, rounding, and number lines. Most students like working on the white boards and they are able to write down their thoughts from the board to their papers.

Ms. Sewell
PHES Co-Teacher
The students in Algebra 1B were reviewing basic concepts from Algebra 1A so they would be ready to focus on solving basic equations. The objective of this lesson is for the students to practice fractions, decimals, percents, and degrees using M&M's. The expectation is for the students to create their M&M lab using a bag of colored M&M's they received plus they had to practice their protractor skills and make a pie graph that represented the degree column. The M&M's lab was divided and the teachers team taught the lesson by taking turns working problems, assisting with reminders of basic calculation rules, and monitoring the student's pie graphs and charts. While students were working on their labs, teachers circulated the class during the group work and listened to answers and participated in student discussions. To assist all students and differentiate instruction, several accommodations were offered to students. We offered small group instruction by dividing into groups of 3 or 4 students. We added lined pie graph circles in degrees of 10 for those that struggle with a protractor. We also offered two protractor videos to watch along with a step by step teacher model. We wrote on the board reminders with examples of how to reduce fractions, decimals, percents, and degrees. Prior to the M&M Lab, the students performed a Skittles Lab, with teacher instruction, where they worked with a group and the students could use their Skittles Lab as an example to guide them through their M&M Lab.

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

Highlights:

1. Rooster Soccer: The Rooster soccer team had a magnificent performance this past Thursday vs. Knob Noster! The boys host Excelsior Springs on Tuesday and Grain Valley on Thursday...both events begin at 5pm with the JV contests.
2. Rooster Football: The football team got a victory last Friday evening in Oak Grove; 28-14. The team played with a lot of confidence against a traditionally strong Oak Grove team. The Roosters host Harrisonville this week on Friday evening; 7pm kick-off. It is the “Gold Out Game” in support of childhood cancer awareness month. Be sure to wear your gold that night to support the Roosters and our local kiddos!
3. Chicks Volleyball: The Volleyball team won their first championship last week at the Lee’s Summit North tournament. The Chicks were the smallest school at the tournament as they blazed through LS North in the Championship game. They took wins in Excelsior Springs, Grain Valley and Smithville last week as well. This week they host Odessa on Tuesday and Oak Grove on Thursday, Congratulations. All events begin at 5pm with Cteam matches.
4. Chicks Golf: The Chicks have a MRVC conference tournament champion this year! to Madison Roach for claiming the title in the tournament played in Warrensburg. The team is performing well this season and participating in the district tournament on Monday this week in Richmond.
5. Cross Country: The cross country team travelled to Rim Rock in Lawrence, Kansas over the weekend. The boys placed 7th out of 24 teams! The Roosters and Chicks compete in Grain Valley on Saturday October 1st and then again in Excelsior Springs on October 4th.
6. Chicks Softball: The Chicks keep piling up the MRVC West conference wins and are currently in 2nd place behind Oak Grove. The team is playing well with victories over Sion and Harrisonville last week. They have a busy week this week with games at Nevada Monday, Senior night Tuesday vs. Odessa, at Excelsior Springs on Thursday and host Rockbridge HS with a double header at 10am Saturday. Come out and check out the Chicks this week as they prepare to host the district tournament the following week; Oct. 5th and 6th.
7. The Pride of the Hill: The Pride secured a 2nd place trophy in their class this past weekend at the Sedalia Smith-Cotton music festival. The weather was warm but beautiful as the Pride performed well! They will travel to Blue Springs High School on
Saturday October 1st to compete in the Golden Regiment marching band competition. You can catch their show following the football game on Friday night vs. Harrisonville.

8. As mentioned previously, PHHS is hosting a “Gold Out” game on Friday Sept. 30th vs. Harrisonville. The intent is to raise some funds to donate to entities supporting children’s cancer. We do have a limited number of “gold” t-shirts available for sale this week at the high school in honor of the evening and the kids. They are being sold for $10 with proceeds being distributed to Children’s Mercy’s oncology unit among other organizations. Wrist bands will also be available for $1 at the game to help support the cause.

9. Have an outstanding week! It’s a great day to be a Rooster/Chick!

TECHNOLOGY
The Technology Department recently completed work on the Project Lead the Way classrooms at the High School. A lab for the use of Engineering classes was upgraded with new furniture, additional computers, dual monitors, a large capacity printer and a 3D printer. A mobile lab with laptop computers and a color printer was added to one science classroom for use by students in BioMedical classes. Finally, a former business lab was upgraded with computers and Android tablets to be used with Computer Science Courses. The staff in the technology department is very excited to help Mr. Scott, Mrs. Geist and Mr. Mounce and their students with these new courses and can’t wait to see all of the exciting activities as a result of the new equipment.