**MRS. CHANDRA ARBUCKLE HONORED AS MISSOURI DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL**

The Pleasant Hill R-III School district is proud to announce Intermediate School Principal, Mrs. Chandra Arbuckle, has been selected as a 2016-2017 Missouri Distinguished Principal through the Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP). This well deserved recognition is given to principals who promote excellent leadership, quality education and professional growth; this award celebrates the profession and exemplifies Mrs. Arbuckle’s outstanding achievements as a school principal.

Mrs. Arbuckle has been a building principal in the R-III district for the past nine years and was a 6th grade teacher in Pleasant Hill for nine years prior to moving into administration. During Mrs. Arbuckle’s second year as building principal, she was honored in the Spring of 2010 as an Exemplary New Principal by MAESP. During her tenure as Intermediate School Principal, Mrs. Arbuckle has worked diligently with staff to create a positive learning experience, focused on learning, for Intermediate students. She has also presented at numerous local and state conferences and has served several terms as an officer in Central District MAESP.

Mrs. Arbuckle’s selection as a Missouri Distinguished Principal will be commemorated during the MAESP Leadership Conference’s Distinguished Principals’ Banquet on Saturday, March 11, 2017 at Osage Beach, MO. Several representatives from the district and the Intermediate School will be in attendance to support Mrs. Arbuckle as she receives her award and is recognized for her excellent work which makes a positive difference in the lives of her students on a daily basis.

**PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Primary School students are focused on reading, writing, and math standards as they prepare for Discovery Education benchmark assessments and Read Across America Week this month. Preschoolers are pictured as they participate in Readers’ Workshop, share books with partners, and read books to their stuffed friends. We are getting ready to celebrate our counselor, Mrs. Shari Doutt, during National School Counseling Week and our Career Week, Feb. 6-10. Classes at each grade level are researching the six career pathways through guidance lessons, guest speakers, and classroom projects. On Friday, staff and students are dressing in our preferred career costumes or uniforms. All staff enjoyed a day of learning from each other in various sessions on our last early release day, participating in activities such as digital break-out boxes, Drum Fit, green screen apps, Deep Space Sparkle art, and chrome book use in the classroom. Starting this month, teachers and I are meeting with parents of students who may need interventions and home support for improved academic achievement the remainder of this year.
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Spotlight on Mrs. Humphrey's Classes
Students in PHYRE at PHES constructed a working arcade completely out of cardboard! The rest of the school was invited to come play the games and earn prizes. You could definitely see the thought and craftsmanship that went into creating some very elaborate pieces. It was a great experience for all the students.

SPELL IT OUT!!!
Last Friday, all PHES students participated in our first school wide PBL. Students were challenged to create a design for the chain link fence around the school property, make it work on a diamond grid, figure the cost (stay within the budget) and plan for installation. Four designs will be chosen to decorate our fence this spring!

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
Congratulations to the PHIS Students of the Week: Curtis Frye, Cody Ammerman, Lauren Kidwell, Oswaldo Gomez, Gwendolin Long, and Bethany Markham! They were selected by their teachers for exhibiting character traits and doing good deeds. We are very proud of them!

Congratulations to the PHIS Students of the Week for February: John Mann, Westen Miller, Leyla Carrera, Ellie Beck, Lydia Bears, Meriah Kates, Elli Shull, Corina Brockman, Emily Millard, Jozlyne Rivera, Mia
Meuschke, and Keaton Odle. They were nominated by their peers for exhibiting the character trait, kindness. It is an honor to be recognized by one's peers in this manner! We are very proud of them!

The Pleasant Hill RIII district spelling bee was held last Thursday in the PAC. Our 2017 winner is 5th grade student Brady Hughes in Mrs. Williamson's class. Brady will represent Pleasant Hill at the Cass County Bee March 8 at the Ray-Pec district office building. Our two runner-up students are Ellie Beck and Aryana Devault. Congratulations to all of our spelling bee participants.

Fifth graders are learning about the eight planets in our solar system and Pluto. They are using a variety of on-line and print resources to expand their knowledge; they are recording their facts using Cornell Notes which includes citations. Cross-teaming between science classes and English Language Arts classes on team 5B was utilized. Students on both teams culminated the research by creating a product to demonstrate what they learned such as travel brochure promoting why someone would want to visit the planet, a board game, a classified ad “selling” the planet, an illustrated comic, an infographic, an iMovie, or writing a fable about the planet.
Pleasant Hill Middle School

The middle school continues its success into second semester. The music classes are gearing up for the musical performance of *Schoolhouse Rock*. This week they will perform twice in the morning for other buildings and twice this weekend for patrons and guests. Over eighty students are involved in singing and dancing to these catchy yet educational tunes from the 1970s and 80s.

Mr. Moore’s math 8 classes have begun graphing on coordinate planes to prepare for algebra. He made a four-quadrant system on the floor tile of the entryway to have them apply their knowledge of rise over run. Students had a designated time to move their bodies to the correct coordinate and pass a bean bag to classmates to find the next point.

Above: Mr. Moore’s eighth-grade math classes apply what they have learned about coordinate planes using floor tiles in the entryway.

High School

Three Pleasant Hill High School students are awarded a WeMET Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to eighteen area students that are currently enrolled in dual credit courses through the Western Missouri Educational Technology Consortium at The University of Central Missouri. PHHS is proud to recognize Ellie Yoder, Madison Voorhees, and Johanna Rosas as recipients of this scholarship.

PHHS students turned Ms. Wingard’s classroom into a veterinary clinic last week. Introduction to Veterinary Science students gained hands-on real-life experience with handling, physically examining and conducting patient histories of rabbits. A sophomore agriculture student provided ten rabbits to examine that are part of his Supervised Agriculture Experience Program (SAEP). Prior to this experience the students had discussed information needed to create a patient history, identify signs of disease or injuries and proper handling technique. During the lab the class worked in groups of three to demonstrate proper holding techniques to both secure and calm the animals, conducted physical examines the ears, eyes, teeth, and body, listened to the respiration and heart rate, determined
gender, and interviewed the owner to create a history chart. This lab provided a hands-on experience to the skills used in the daily operations of a veterinary clinic.

On January 30, 2017, eight PHHS students visited with small groups of 8th graders. During these short meetings, students were able to share about their high school experience. Much of the conversation focused on course options and involvement in activities. This event is part of the planning process while 8th graders are working on their personal plans of study (4 year plans).

SPECIAL SERVICES

Students from Mrs. Diederich’s and Mrs. Pickett’s co-taught classrooms work cooperatively in a small group on phonics skills during Rooster Time to improve their reading ability. Recalling a rhyming word is an excellent strategy for students to use when attacking an unfamiliar word. Students used problem solving skills, teamwork, and knowledge of rhyming words and vowel teams to assemble rhyming word puzzles together. The students are learning how vowels work together to create new sounds (-ey, -ee, and -y can all make a long E sound.) Proficiency in phonics skills will increase reading fluency and in turn reading comprehension.

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

Highlights:

1. The Rooster wrestling: Congratulations to Cole Lightfoot, senior, for achieving his 150th win this past weekend at the University Academy wrestling tournament! An awesome accomplishment for this young man! The wrestlers head to the district tournament this weekend in Clinton. Wrestling begins Friday evening and will last through Saturday. If the wrestlers finish in the top 4 of their weight class, they qualify for state!
2. **Chicks Basketball** plays on the road this week at Grain Valley on Tuesday; 5:30 JV tip. They will host Oak Grove on Thursday at the Coop; 5:30 JV tip. The Chicks C-team wrapped up their tournament at Lee’s Summit West with a win vs. Lee’s Summit North!

3. **Rooster Basketball** plays Grain Valley at the Coop on Tuesday night; 5:30 JV tip! The Roosters got a big MRVC West win last Friday night vs. Harrisonville. They went 2-1 in the Grain Valley tournament last week falling in the Championship game to Staley. The Roosters travel to Oak Grove Friday night for a doubleheader; 5:30 JV tip.

4. **Hillside and all the Pleasant Hill show choirs** will travel to Harrisonville this week to compete. The competition will take place all day on Saturday February 11th.

5. **Speech and Debate** travels to Staley HS this weekend to compete. PHHS will be hosting an MRVC conference event on President's day, February 20th. Come out and watch!

6. **MUSIC:** A huge thank you to Mr. Twenter and Ms. Langemach for the pep-band performance at the games last week! The atmosphere last Friday night was electric and the band contributed greatly to that!

7. The **Scholar Bowl** team went 3-0 in last week's quad in Excelsior Springs! They will travel to St. Pius X this spring for their district tournament!

8. A huge shout-out to the students of PHHS for an awesome night Friday night for the courtwarming games vs. Harrisonville! The place was packed and the kids showed up in droves! So much fun to be a part of that atmosphere. Keep coming! We can do this at each ballgame!

9. The Hillside Singers, Hilltop Harmony and Powerhouse all competed at the Smith Cotton Show-Me Classic this past Saturday, February 4. Powerhouse won the Unisex Men's division, and was 7th overall out of 22 choirs after prelims. Hilltop Harmony won the Unisex Women's division, qualified for finals, and was 2nd overall after prelims. Hillside Singers won the Large Group division, qualified for finals, and was 1st overall after prelims. Hilltop Harmony received 4th runner up after finals, and Hillside Singers won Grand Champion. Other awards that Hillside won were Best Choreography, Best Vocals, Best Show Design, Best Opener, and Outstanding Male Vocalist with Dylan Adams. It was a great day to be a rooster!

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**FACILITIES - Safety**

The High School staff recently underwent intruder training. The training was a joint effort of the District Safety Committee, Administration and Pleasant Hill Police Department. The training began with the group listening to instructions for the day. A scenario was played out over a period of approximately 30 minutes with the staff coming together once again to discuss what was observed and suggestions for possible improvement.