Last week was a busy one in the district with work on interventions, data meetings, progress monitoring, and Reader’s and Writer’s Workshop.

Each team of elementary teachers met to discuss winter benchmark data, as well as growth of students from fall to winter.

Middle School and Intermediate School teachers met to deepen their knowledge of Reader’s and Writer’s Workshop. The day included observing a model lesson taught by Mrs. Jakqualyn Boden, District Curriculum Facilitator, and Mrs. Codie Lubke, High School ELA Co-Teacher. The work built upon prior professional development and allowed teachers time to plan for the Workshop model in their classrooms.

Mrs. Fenton's 2nd graders made paper chains to count down for Christmas. The kids had to put the chains together in a pattern. They planned out their patterns on paper before they set to work.

With the holiday season upon us, Mrs. Randol's second graders made pumpkin pie and whipped cream! They wrote “How to make pumpkin pie” procedural writings and realized not all pumpkin comes from a can!

Mrs. Wenger's kindergarten students worked in teams to sort 3D shapes!
Spotlight on Ms. Bowman’s Class
Miss Bowman’s class spent a few weeks working on their informative writing and research project. Students read about endangered animals during a Wonders story so they chose an animal to research. They used the Chromebooks and Google Classroom to access the websites and research for their project. Once they finished, they turned their information into organized informational papers. Students then created an Adobe Spark page to teach others about their animal. They created a QR code for the page and put it into their final informative paper. They worked hard and did a great job!

Spotlight on Mrs. C Armstrong’s Class
Novel Engineering with Gracias The Thanksgiving Turkey
During the week of Thanksgiving, our class read the book Gracias the Thanksgiving Turkey. As we read the story, students wrote down the problems that were encountered by the main character, Miguel, and his pet turkey, Gracias. After reviewing the problems Miguel and Gracias faced in the story, students posed the questions, 1) How will a turkey live safely in New York City? 2) How will Miguel get food for Gracias? 3) How will Miguel take Gracias for a walk without the turkey flying away?

In the next step, students were challenged to use Legos and K’Nex to build a solution to answer one of the questions. Before the students began their construction, they had to show a design on paper and propose their solution to a specific problem. Students presented their finished products to our small group. One student built a lawnmower out of K’nex to cut grass to feed Gracias. Another team built a pen out of Legos to keep Gracias safe during the day. A stroller was made to keep Gracias safe while going for a walk in the city and another group constructed a cage to keep Gracias from escaping onto a city street. Our class enjoyed this adventure in Novel Engineering and will continue to use this model throughout the school year.

Look how we SHINE at PHES!
All students at PHES reflected on the beginning of their year by celebrating their achievements and how they are a BRIGHT LIGHT for others. Students and teachers took time to share the unique talents of each individual student at classroom ceremonies. We will celebrate as a school on December 15th.

Congratulations to the PHIS Students of the Week (week of Dec. 4-8). They were selected by their teachers for exhibiting the character traits respect and responsibility as well as doing good deeds! We are so proud of them!

Congratulations to the PHIS Students of the Month for December! They were selected by their classmates for exhibiting the character trait, responsibility. What an honor to be recognized by one’s peers in this manner; it speaks volumes!

Intermediate School
PHIS 6th graders in Mrs. Filis’s and Mr. Clawson’s classes engaged in a PLTW unit for several weeks. Their unit culminated in a Shark Tank Assembly in which teams presented their prototype and final design of their toy that a child with cerebral palsy (CP) would use in order to strengthen fine and/or gross motor skills. Presentations encompassed many aspects including: a statement of the problem and design, a summary of CP, a decision matrix, an explanation of how their toy met physical motor skills, pictures of multi-views of their design, an explanation of how the solution works, and how their prototype meets each of the established criteria. Students also explained their goal, data, and what they would change if they had the opportunity. This entire unit was comprised of authentic, hands-on learning. We would like to thank our Shark Panel consisting of Dr. Janis Yokley, Mrs. Melissa Arenson, Mrs. Michelle Humphrey, Mr. Clay Kohler, and Mr. David Schror for volunteering their time to make the event even more exciting. Congratulations to our winners for their Dart Design Game.

Students in both grade levels have been engaging in breakout boxes during homeroom/ Rooster Time. These breakout box activities are designed to reinforce objectives, challenge students in the area of critical thinking, and to foster teamwork and relationships. Recently, students participated in an engaging, Minecraft, all-school breakout box in which students found the perimeter and area, computed the sum of atomic numbers of certain elements on the periodic table, and used clues from reading to discover lock combinations in order to break out! Many thanks to Mrs. Arenson, PHIS LMS, for creating and organizing these activities.
Alexandria Pierce was just named the Mary Sibley Chapter’s Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizen of the year for Pleasant Hill High School. Alexandria was selected for this honor for demonstrating the following traits: dependability (including truthfulness, loyalty, punctuality) service (including cooperation, courtesy, and consideration of others) leadership (including personality, self-control, and ability to take responsibility) and patriotism (including unselfish interest in family, school, community and nation). Alexandria will be submitting an application and essay for consideration for a state DAR scholarship.

Fifty-three Pleasant Hill High School students participated in an ACT workshop on Friday, December 1st. This workshop was hosted by four high school teachers that have been trained to prepare students for the ACT. This workshop focused on test taking tips and strategies for students planning to take the ACT test on December 9th.
Highlights: Pleasant Hill Activities… “It’s a GREAT Day to be a Rooster/Chick!” New activities website: www.pleasanthillhs.rschoolteams.com

Rooster Wrestling: The Rooster wrestling team has gotten off to a good start. The team took 2 of 2 duals in St. Joseph last week defeating Savannah and Winnetonka; losing to Benton HS. The Steve Leslie Invitational saw six Rooster wrestlers get into the championship portion of the event. There were no Rooster Champions this year but if was an excellent tournament! Coach Wyatt and his coaching staff are to be commended on their preparation in running off the event. Compliments were abundant regarding our hospitality and concessions as well. A huge shout-out goes to our wrestling moms who made that happen. Thank you for all who contributed to the success of the Steve Leslie Invitational.

Chicks Basketball: Don’t look now but the Chicks girls basketball team is undefeated! The JV is playing very well as well. The Chicks varsity squad earned a win at home last week vs. the St. Pius X Lady Warriors! They are now 1-0 on the young season. They host Center Monday night in a triple-header (4:30pm) and will travel to Raytown South on Thursday evening for a triple-header (4:30pm). The Chicks have a home game Tuesday vs. the Marshall Owls (6:30pm)

Rooster Basketball: The Roosters varsity basketball team will play in the DeSoto tournament this week with games being played Tuesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday (depending on bracket results). The Freshman team has a home game on Tuesday vs. Marshall HS (6:30pm)

Band: Congratulations to Genevieve Wrobel for earning the 1st Chair English Horn spot in the All-State orchestra! This will be her second trip as a member of this All-State group!

Speech & Debate: The speech and debate team traveled to William Chrisman and Higginsville.

At William Chrisman:
Eric Humphrey and Joe Dryer finished 2nd in Policy Debate while Eric finished 5th in US Extemporaneous Speaking.
At Higginsville 9 students made it to the final round...
Madelyn Zvacek finished 8th in Humorous Interp
Drake Beaman finished 5th in Humorous Interp
Alex Shelton finished 4th in Humorous Interp
Mackenzie Beaman finished 4th in Prose and 3rd in Dramatic Interp
Emma Mueller finished 4th in Oratory
Joe McKee finished 3rd in Oratory
Levi Cohen finished 2nd in Lincoln Douglas debate
Will Toler finished 1st in Extemporaneous Speaking.

Scholar Bowl: The kids will be travelling to Columbia College for the Missouri Quizbowl Alliance Fall Championship!

Rooster Football Post-Season honors:
Blake Atkins - 2nd team all district Quarterback
Jared Clapp - 2nd team all district Offensive Line
Ramsey Kohler - 2nd team all district Receiver
Garrett Schick - 1st team all district Defensive Back and 3rd team all-state Defensive Back
Cody Faust - 2nd team all district Running Back, 1st team all district Linebacker, and 2nd team all-state Linebacker
Trey Stone - 1st team all district Defensive Line, 1st team all district Offensive Line, and 3rd team all-state Offensive Line

Non-School Athletic news: Tyler Harrald (senior)... In the sport of Bowling; in league play, Tyler scored his very first 300 pin game this past week!