In Mrs. Diederich’s 1st grade classroom, students worked with partners to create their own story problem and make a number bond to show the whole as 10 and some ones. This strategy helps students decompose the numbers to 10.

The Cass County Farm Bureau will be celebrating “Thank a Farmer Week” in Cass County during the week of February 4-10. Each year they do projects that connect people with the source of their food. This year, they are partnering with many of the elementary schools in Cass County to develop placemats that will be put in local restaurants their school is near. Second graders at Pleasant Hill Primary have been working on this project during art class under the direction of Mrs. Julie Smith, art teacher.

In Mrs. Diederich and Mrs. Proudfit’s class, students created a digital venn diagram using the chromebooks. The students were asked to compare life long ago to the present time. They looked specifically at transportation, homes, schools, and classrooms. Some of the computer skills the students had to use were: inserting pictures (comparing), typing sentences stating the similarities, searching on google images (provided a link), then copy and paste. The students had to use multiple tabs on the computer as well as using functions in a google document. The students did a phenomenal job using technology for the lesson! The class also really enjoyed seeing how far we’ve come from long ago!
**Elementary School**

Congratulations to the PHIS Students of the Week! They were selected by their teachers for exhibiting the character traits kindness, respect, and responsibility! They are role models and do good deeds. We are so proud of them!

Congratulations to the PHIS Students of the Month for February. They were selected by their classmates for exhibiting the characteristics: kindness, respect, and responsibility. It is a huge honor to be selected by one's peers in this manner; we are so proud of these students!

Our members of the Positive School Climate/Friends For Rachel Committee organized a food drive for the 100th day of school. The challenge was for teams to donation 100 items. The Intermediate School collected over 300 food items that will be donated to the Pleasant Hill Food Pantry. We thank our parents and community members for the generous donations and applaud our students in their effort of helping others and showing kindness!

The Great Kindness Challenge (GKC) is a proactive and positive bullying prevention initiative that improves school climate and increases student engagement. The Great Kindness Challenge is one week devoted to performing as many acts of kindness as possible on campus. Using a checklist of 50 kind acts, students accept the challenge and showed the world that KINDNESS MATTERS! Some examples of the acts of Kindness included: smile at 25 people, slip a nice note in your friend’s backpack, compliment 5 people, pick up 10 pieces of trash on campus, make a new friend, and much more! Congratulations to our students that completed the challenge; they received a surprise reward through a random drawing. 5th-grade students conduct their own investigation into the Boston Massacre by viewing a setup of the crime scene, "interviewing" actual witnesses via primary source documents, and recreating the events in miniature using Paul Revere’s diagram of the scene. They also explored propaganda in media by studying paintings and drawings of the event and reading the newspaper accounts from both Boston and London.

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**Intermediate School**

Spotlight on Mrs. Humphrey and PHYRE

The fourth grade Phyre students held their annual “Cardboard Arcade” this month. Students designed, built, tested, and modified carnival games. Fourth graders attended the Arcade and enjoyed all the games. A fun time was had by all!

Spotlight on Ms. Schuette’s Third Grade Class

In Ms. Schuette’s third grade class we are learning how to write persuasively. After learning about what persuasive writing is, we started our first writing. Students used the tug of war thinking routine that Dave Holden presented to help develop deeper ideas. For this routine students answered the question “Should elementary school teachers assign homework?” Students answer the question yes or no and use a new sticky note for each reason that they can think of to support their answer. This strategy helped students brainstorm ideas to use in their persuasive writing. After using our background knowledge we split into differentiated groups to read articles that present reasons for and against having homework in elementary schools. The articles helped students produce more ideas to add to their tug of war to support both sides of the argument. After students had ideas from their schema and the article they categorized them on the tug of war line from strongest detail to weakest detail that would persuade others for each side of the argument.

The last part of the brainstorming process was jigsawing to see other groups tug of war to see and evaluate their thinking as well as to learn the additional details from the articles that they did not read. We then created a whole class tug of war where students had to use collaborative talk and language stems to agree and disagree with each detail, and decide where each detail belonged on the whole class tug of war line.

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Second semester is well underway. Students in ELA and math have already been utilizing the DnA achievement test for content standards; in February they will add FASTbridge, the skill component. The results of these skills assessments will allow teachers to further refine planning for instruction. The students will again take the DnA benchmark tests in the spring. Science students will be working through new Project Lead the Way units this semester. The seventh graders have begun with the power of flight, designing hot air balloons. Eighth graders will make ice cream and glue and learn about oil spill clean up. Mrs. Campbell’s seventh-grade geography students will participate in a snack exchange with students from England. This activity will allow them to share their own culture while learning about another first-hand. Student Council will again sponsor the Valentine’s fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Students can send a Valentine and lollipop to a classmate for one dollar. The middle school will host its winter dance on February 9 from 6:00-8:00 PM. March will bring the variety show, which will feature PHMS students and their performance talents. This will perform at the high school on the evenings of March 2 and 3. Winter sports have concluded, but track and field is just around the corner in March.

Two Pleasant Hill High School students have been awarded a WeMET Scholarship. This $255 scholarship was awarded to twenty-three 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 Andrea Allen and Macey Barker as recipients of this scholarship. The PHHS HOSA (Healthcare Occupation Students of America) chapter is a service oriented club putting on and participating in events to support national, community, district and school health and safety initiatives. This year HOSA students choose to support the Special Olympics by participating in the annual Polar Bear Plunge at Longview Lake. HOSA students, their friends and families jumped into the icy lake raising over $3000.00 for the cause. The Pleasant Hill Plungers would like to extend a special thank you to everyone that donated money and came to the event to show their support. HOSA hopes to continue to serve the district and community through several more events this school year. Club members are looking forward to helping with the PLTW expo along with adult education classes in February, the annual blood drive in March and upcoming student health centered events in April.
The new year brought new adventures for ELA I classes. The students completed a teambuilding activity that involved reading, critical thinking, math, problem-solving, and survival skills. Students went on a dog sledding trip through the wilds of Alaska with their team but became stranded because their guide and one other team had fallen through the ice. Teams had to work together to determine the best strategy and the best supplies that would aide most in surviving the treacherous environment. Students then calculated their individual and team scores to determine if they would have survived; they also used the scores to determine their team’s effectiveness and ability to work together. After calculating the results of the team’s effectiveness, students discussed how their teams could attain greater synergy. Overwhelmingly, students determined effective communication was the most important factor in a team’s success.

**PHHS Activities “It’s a Great Day to be a Rooster / Chick!”**

Pleasant Hill Activities... “It’s a GREAT Day to be a Rooster/Chick!” New activities website: www.pleasanthillhs.rschoolteams.com

Highlights:

**Hillside/Powerhouse:** The Pleasant Hill choirs travelled to Sedalia this past weekend to participate in the Smith-Cotton Showcase. Powerhouse had an electric performance earning 4th runner up. This was followed by Hillside taking it all in Sedalia with a Grand Championship performance in finals. The choirs head to Harrisonville this week to perform.

**Scholar Bowl Team:** The Rooster Scholar Bowl team swept a huge MRVC quad last week defeating Grain Valley, Odessa and Higginsville. In a battle of undefeated teams, the Roosters defeated the Eagles by 200 points! If you haven’t taken in a scholar bowl event, you should! Congratulations Roosters!

**Rooster Wrestling:** The Rooster wrestling team is gearing up for the district tournament this week. They will travel to Clinton on Friday and Saturday to compete for an opportunity to wrestle in the state tournament.

**Chicks Basketball:** The Chicks have gone 5-2 in their last seven ballgames. The ladies are 3-1 in conference play. The Chicks are home Tuesday night vs. the Grain Valley Lady Eagles and then on the Road Thursday at Oak Grove. Start times are 5:30 (JV) for both events.

**Rooster Basketball:** The Roosters varsity basketball team got a big MRVC West victory at Harrisonville in game two of Friday night’s double-header. The Roosters are 8-1 in their last nine games and are 3-1 in the MRVC West. The Roosters play Tuesday at Grain Valley and then at home Friday for Courtwarming vs Oak Grove; 5:30 JV tip in both events.