Over the past few weeks several groups have continued work and professional development across the district. The building counselors and principals have met to collaborate on a district testing schedule for State mandated testing this spring. The Intermediate School math teachers met to develop benchmark and common assessments. The Primary School kindergarten and first grade teachers have been meeting to streamline Response to Intervention (RtI) barnyard groups. The teachers sorted information sheets based on the most recent universal screener given to students. The RtI groups are made up of students with like needs in the area of reading skills. The teachers then worked to develop a bank of intervention lessons to be used.

Primary School Professional Development Continues in District

Second graders will be participating in Jump Rope for Heart on Jan. 24-25. Students enjoyed making posters for the event.

Kindergarteners in Mrs. Buchanan’s class had fun using Chromebooks to teach their monsters how to read.

Today the students in Mrs. Duncan’s room were introduced to penguins and what their attributes and habitat looks like. They began the lesson by answering a What Do You Think? anchor chart that asked questions about what penguins look like and where they live. They then listened to a nonfiction text about Penguins. After listening to the text they were then able to go back to the anchor chart and validate if their first answer was correct or not. At the end of the lesson the students got to do a fun “Penguin” brain break.

Students in Mrs. Fuller’s 1st grade classroom participate in the Daily 5 during their reading time. During this time students read to self, read with a partner, write stories, and work with their spelling words.
**Elementary School**

**SPOTLIGHT ON ART WITH MRS. ALBIN • FOURTH GRADE VISITS THE NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART**

One way the elementary art room has contributed to the district STEAM initiative is by scheduling a field trip to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City. With this unique field trip, fourth grade students were able to study real works of art for inspiration, discuss works of art using visual thinking strategies with their instructor, think deeply about the design process and create their own work of art. During this year’s visits, students were able to create an automaton sculpture that actually worked by using a cam, cam follower and crankshaft. After the basics were in place for their sculpture and moving properly, they then decorated their piece with other paper, wire and foam scraps.

Another workshop that was offered through the museum, used a lighted wand and a slow shutter app to create artwork in the dark. Students used a small battery and light bulb to design a wand or arm cuff that would serve as the light source with which they would paint. With lights off, students drew their art into the dark. From an Ipad, the instructor recorded the light movement with the slow shutter app. The artwork from this process was quite amazing.

Following the workshops, students were treated to a scavenger hunt designed by Mrs. Albin. This scavenger hunt related real works of art back to the first semester of artists, techniques and the elements and principles of art that they had learned about. Spending time at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art was definitely a wonderful learning experience.

**IN THE ART ROOM** - Currently in the art room at the elementary school, third and fourth grades have started their annual cultural study. This year the students are studying Africa. So far, third grade has learned about African folktales and the giraffe. Students were read an African folktale about a giraffe and the monkeys. Students were then asked to recreate their favorite part of the folktale. Fourth grade has studied the African mud cloth. They have discovered how it is made and its significance to the African culture. Their mud cloths were created using symbols that were personal and meaningful. Students used tar paper and oil pastel to finish their projects. Artwork from this cultural study will be on display starting the week of January 22nd. Please stop by to see the work that the students have been doing.

**FAMILY ART NIGHT** - On January 17, Family Art Night was held. The theme was “snowmen”. Approximately sixty family members attended the event at the elementary school. Families gather five times a year to create artwork, learn a bit about art and spend time together. Art projects are designed to fit the very young to the very young at heart; all ages are welcome. The next scheduled event is Wednesday, February 7th at 6:30 pm. The theme will be “hearts”. Make plans to come with an elementary student and their family for this event. It’s always fun to create with family and friends. Join us!

**FPHS TEACHERS WATCH EACH OTHER SHINE!**

Staff visited classrooms in teams to see what great things are happening throughout the school. Teachers looked for evidence of Indicators 1.1 and 4.1 (our PD focus for the year) and completed an Instructional Practices Inventory for the school as a whole. We learned so much from observing others.

See pictures on last page

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**Intermediate School**

Congratulations to the PHIS Students of the Month! They were nominated by their classmates for exhibiting the character trait, kindness! What an honor to be recognized by one’s peers in this manner!

Week of January 15-19

Week of January 22-26

Fancy Lunch Celebration took place Friday, January 19, 2018! Students set goals for 2nd quarter Mission Matters and worked hard to reach them. Mission Matters goals focus on attendance and tardies, citizenship, and homework. All students were invited to dress fancy for the day. We had bow ties, regular ties, suits, dresses, even long dresses! Many students dressed to the nines and enjoyed doing so! Students were rewarded with fancy table settings, piano music, and ice cream served by staff! Students have already set goals for 3rd quarter Mission Matters and are striving to meet them as well. We look forward to all they accomplish!

Have you ever experimented with water? Sure, you probably drink several glasses of water each day. You also use it to clean your body when you take a bath or a shower. But did you know it possesses some cool scientific characteristics? This introduction is just the beginning of exploring with water and bubble formation during a Wonder WIN group. During WIN (What I Need), students have the opportunity to explore and wonder in content that meets their individual needs. Selections of texts are provided to students along with all the items needed in order to engage in an experiment. There are a variety of experiments from which to choose with all lessons being self-driven by students. As seen in the picture, our 3rd grade scientist had great success with her lesson, “How do Bubbles Form?” Students rush to their Wonder WIN group and hate to leave!
The Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce hosted their annual Spotlight Gala at Brinkoetter’s Big Iron Town. At this event, Sheryl Book was honored as the 2018 Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Book is a Language Arts teacher at PHHS and has worked in the district since 2015. Sheryl was recognized for her dedication to her students and implementing engaging strategies in her classroom. Congratulations Sheryl and well deserved!

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PHMS continues second semester with beginnings and ends. Both the girls’ and boys’ basketball teams finished their seasons last Friday versus Excelsior Springs. This moves us into performance season. The variety show will be held the first weekend in March and feature, as the name implies, various students and their talents. Mrs. Martin’s ELA classes observed Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by learning about the day’s namesake and then developing a acrostic poem. Using the Padlet Application, they were able to post their poems in bulletin-board fashion to be viewed all at once. ELA and math classes have already been utilizing the DnA achievement test for content standards; this winter they will add FASTbridge, the skill component. The results of these skills assessments will allow teachers to further refine planning for instruction. 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.

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 travelled to Blue Valley NW this past weekend! Chace Sullivan earned a championship in the 138# weight class for the Roosters. Gabe Hodge earned 2nd place at 145# and Chance Thompson earned 4th place at 160#. Dylan Berry took home 6th place at 195# for the Roosters. The Roosters travel to Harrisonville on Tuesday for an MRVC West dual. Thursday the Roosters host Central Academy, Cameron and Nevada on Matwarming night! Crowning of the Matwarming queen will be after the first dual of the evening.

Rooster Basketball: The Roosters varsity basketball team is on a roll! They’ve won 5 of 6 games dating back through the PHHS Tournament. They bounced back after a round one defeat to win two ball games in the tournament. They recently defeated district rival Clinton and MRVC West rival Excelsior Springs at home. They roll into the Grain Valley Sonic Showdown Tuesday night playing Platte County at 7:30pm. Brackets can be found at http://www.pleasanthillhs.rschoolteams.com/
Chicks Basketball: The Chicks finished the Pleasant Hill tournament with a victory over Pembroke Hill. They earned an MRVC West victory vs. Excelsior Springs last Thursday night. The Chicks have won two straight heading into the Grain Valley Tournament. They take on Oak Park Monday at 7:30pm and will play again on Wednesday evening. Brackets can be found at http://www.pleasanthillhs.rschoolteams.com/ The staff and players earned a commendation from an official following last Thursday’s game. “I would like to take this time to drop a little note of appreciation for Pleasant Hill Girls basketball team. I'm sorry I didn't grab a roster, but #12 was remarkable. Always smiling, playing hard and never grimaced or complained. In the last couple of weeks around the states with reports on bad behavior, I just wanted to commend all of Pleasant Hill. From administration, to coaches, to players a job well done. Thanks for the great game. Tad Malone”

PHHS Choirs: Battle of the Best this past weekend was run as smooth as ever. It is always exciting to see the choral group of kids and parents work hard to pull off such a large and fun event! It was cool to see so many high school students enjoying themselves and having a good time. Thank you to all the teachers as well for assisting the event with the use of their classrooms and time. Mrs. Dollins and the Noteables work tirelessly to put on this event. Our kids performed very well in exhibition. They love that opportunity to perform in front of their peers!