TEACHER RECRUITMENT

On Thursday, March 5th Pleasant Hill R-III representatives traveled to the campus of the University of Missouri - Kansas City to attend the 2015 Teacher Recruitment Event Day. During the event, district staff talked to prospective teachers and set up 15 minute interviews for later that day. The event allows us to promote our district and highlight the outstanding work taking place in classrooms to prepare our students for college and career. The brief interview time, with university students, allows us an avenue for screening prospective teacher candidates. The event was attended by approximately 100 UMKC students and 28 school districts. Spring is a busy time with many teacher placement days taking place. District representatives will also attend teacher placement days on the campuses of University of Central Missouri and University of Missouri - Columbia later this month.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Primary School halls are filled with evidence of learning and literacy displays. Having just celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday, we are now preparing for Missouri School Read-In Day on March 13. Teachers and students are decorating classroom doors according to favorite book themes. Students will vote on their favorites, and results will be tabulated and graphed during classroom math instruction, reinforcing our culture of math. On March 13, we will start the day with a surprise assembly, and all wear pajamas and bring our favorite books for a morning of fun activities. Students in grades K-1 have completed a third series of benchmark assessments through Discovery Education online testing in both reading and math. At all three grade levels, teachers are meeting to reassign students to small-group Rtl "coops" for a final month of targeted instruction in foundational reading skills and comprehension. We are coordinating professional development time with the ES staff to review our understanding of the writing rubric and collaborative scoring. We expect a big crowd at our annual Dollars and Donuts With Dads event on March 11. Kindergarten screenings for incoming students next year start on March 16.
Elementary School

Read across America week was a huge success! Students and staff enjoyed wearing crazy socks to show they are crazy about reading, ate popcorn and wore pajamas, enjoyed Seussical the Musical, wore our western wear to round up a good book and concluded the week with our Reading Opens Doors event. Students also enjoyed special stories shared by our guest readers: Corporal Tieman, Lisa Vescovi and Vicki Hartsell. We appreciate all the work done by the Reading and Writing Committee to make these events possible for our students.

This week we are busy finishing up 3rd Quarter assessments. Teachers are calibrating their scoring expectations for writing and unit tests. Grade cards will be distributed later this week and our Third Quarter Celebration Assembly will be held on March 20th.

This Thursday we will recognize international Pi Day one day early! On March 12th students will visit math stations to include Geopanes, Coordinate Grids, Pretzel Graphing, Penny Boats, Perimeter Portraits and Fraction Free Throws. These stations will comprise one half of the day and the other half will be devoted to grade level events. Fourth Grade will create a Greek Marketplace and Third Grade will enjoy a Pi Day Greek Olympic experience for students. It will be math all day on March 12th. Thank you to the Math and Science Committee for organizing this event.

Teachers continue to integrate art into their core standards to support the goals of the Crayola Grant. On Friday, Janis Yokely will visit provide technology professional development, we will calibrate writing with our Primary School colleagues and then conclude our day by capturing art infused lessons for the Crayola Grant. It is sure to be a productive week!
**Intermediate School**

“Students of the Week” are: Ashlynn Long, Kyleigh Marley, Madelyn Fatino, Olivia Trask, Zach Redwine and Isaac Bledsoe. We congratulate these students for their outstanding character and deeds. Congratulations to the PHIS Students of the Month: Alivia Redwine, Bella Jenson, Kennedy Donavan, Charisma Werner, Olivia Williams, Brooke DeVaul, Kaidence Cleveland, Haylee Lewis, Brooklyn Chambers, Belle Danner, Morgan Corbin, Gabby Lopez, Alex Good and Harlee Fenton! They were selected by their peers for exhibiting the character trait, responsibility!

Sixth graders have been learning about economics this year and utilizing a token economy system in preparation for their upcoming field trip to the Blue Springs School of Economics (BSSE). This field trip provides students with opportunities to become better economically prepared for our world. They participate in a real-world experience running their own business. To help them prepare, students fill out job applications and interview for positions with high school DECA students. This is a great experience not only for our students but also for the high school students. We thank Mrs. Amy Franklin for working with our 6th grade teachers in order to make this happen!

6A Dressed for Success!
The IS/MS production of *Seussical, Jr* has been underway. What a success! Several hours of hard work and practice were evident from watching the performances. Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat and all of your favorite Dr. Seuss characters came to life in this musical. Congratulations to all performers, the lobby crew, parent volunteers, teacher helpers including Mrs. Shaffer, and to the IS and MS music directors, Mrs. Chandler and Mrs. Williams! What a job well done! Remember, a person is a person no matter how small!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Middle School Family & Consumer Science News…

Family Consumer Science at the middle school is in full swing for this semester using Synergistic Learning Systems. Synergistic Learning Systems has led a revolution that has fundamentally changed the way Family Consumer Science is taught in our building. The module system provides age-appropriate, student-centered learning systems, to provide students with the most positive and meaningful learning experience possible. Each module encourages students to take ownership of their own learning, using Standards-based curriculum, relevant hands-on activities, and a cooperative learning environment.

Students work in pairs on various activities related to real life experiences. A variety of every living skill is experienced in Family Consumer Science. In the classroom we have 12 module stations that students are rotated through giving them the experiences and lessons. Computer based learning systems give the students the computer learning technology and variety of delivered lessons. Students participate in lessons on unit pricing in confident consumer to hands on cooking with a convection oven or microwave. Students get to experience real life issues as they develop skills in everyday living.
High School

LIBRARY and ELA

Author Amy Engel (Book of Ivy) spoke with over 200 PHHS students on Friday, 2/27. The author’s visit was promoted through the library and students signed up for the in-school field trip through their Language Arts teacher.

Ms. Engel talked about her journey to becoming a writer, including her time spent as a prosecuting attorney. She talked about the perseverance required to become a published author, and how she had written other books that were still unpublished. Students got to hear firsthand how she goes about writing a book and the process of edits and rewrites that are so necessary to perfect a piece of writing. Ms. Engel encouraged students to write every day, as the practice of writing makes them better writers. She graciously invited students to ask questions about writing, reading, or other general questions. The students took full advantage of the Q&A session, asking questions about publishing, writing, careers, and reading.

After the session, a small group stayed behind to get more in-depth questions answered.

Student feedback from the author’s visit was very positive, we hope to offer more opportunities like this in the future.

World Languages

World language students are demonstrating several translations in their classes. Spanish I students are using flash cards to demonstrate the translation for “to go up”. Spanish II students are learning past tense of multiple verbs. While, French I students are presenting their work on the board that translates “to have”. 
MATH
Geometry classes at the high school investigated arc length and area of a sector on Friday, March 5th, by analyzing pieces of cookie cake. Students gained understanding in using degree measure and total angle measure of a circle to calculate areas of parts of a circle. The lesson concluded with each student calculating the area of their portion of cookie cake and the length of the icing around the edge. The use of cookie cake enabled students to visualize the mathematics they were learning and created an engaging environment in which to learn.

BAND
The band will be taking 75 students to Florida on March 12-16 to perform in a national competition at Universal Studios. Students will also have the chance to explore Sea World, Universal Studios and the Blue Man Group.

ART
Earlier this week students in Mrs. Coleman’s Interior Design class took a short field trip to downtown Pleasant Hill to tour the train depot. The student's have been given the opportunity to work on the newest project of the Pleasant Hill Community Betterment Committee. The plan is to update the reception area where the Chamber of Commerce office is; and to come up with designs to remodel another room of the historical train depot. The new area is planned to be used to showcase local businesses and artist in Pleasant Hill.

Mr. Randy Miller the Community Development Director for the city, and Mr. Mark Randall the City Administrator, met the student’s at the depot and highlighted what they are looking for in the remodel. Mr. Randall supplied copies of the floor plans of each area for the student’s to begin their planning. At a later date the student's will present 2 or 3 different plans for the Committee to choose from.

FaCS I student’s have just wrapped up a unit on Interior Design. The student's were given a budget and the floor plan of a studio apartment that they had to decorate. Choosing furnishings for the apartment was just one of the tasks they were given. Also included in the lesson, they were to decide if they wanted to refinish the hardwood flooring, or carpet the living area. They had to choose all furnishings, paint, flooring, decor, lighting, window coverings and curtains, all within budget.

The last work day in class, student's walked around and looked at all the design boards, they were to write one thing they liked, and one thing they would change, on a post-it-note and place on each of the boards. Many students were overheard commenting about things they wished they had thought of for their design.
Mrs. Coleman's Art I student's have been busy learning about the Element's and Principle's of Design; they recently finished learning about Radial Balance. Each student completed three different kinds of Radial Balance. Two of the projects were done in colored pencil and graphite pencil. The third project was completed with construction paper that was folded using several different Origami folds, that showed a relief design.

Ceramics student's have been pushing clay all year, and many have become quite proficient with their work. Clay can be a very challenging medium to work with, breakage from drying too fast, dampness or air pockets in a clay piece can cause it to explode in the kiln. Glazing can also be unpredictable, due to chemical changes in the firing process, what you put on doesn't look the same out of the bottle as it does out of the kiln.
SPECIAL SERVICES
The Office:
We are continuing to complete initial and re-evaluations as they come in. We are coming to the end of new referrals for the year due to needing the 60 days to get the testing and determination done. We are attending placement days at local colleges for recent Special Education graduates and will begin interviewing for vacancies soon.

Primary School
Students in Mrs. Barnes' room have been working on using the iPads to gather facts and information about certain topics. They have been representing that research in a variety of ways: Venn Diagrams, Topic Webs, T-Charts, and Labeled Diagrams.

Recently, these students, varying in age and disability, represented their research by making books. They used the App “Book Creator”. They enjoyed being the authors and illustrators by adding their own pictures and sentences. “Book Creator” also has a feature that allows students to add audio to their books. The students chose to read their own books out loud. This activity was a great success and the students enjoyed it!

Examples of the students books have been posted privately on “Youtube”. The following are the links to watch each student's book as a video.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50787xz13w8&feature=em-upload_owner
The Bearded Dragon
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kt51l4nkUgU&feature=em-upload_owner
Cobras
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5i2yV0cVEGY&feature=em-upload_owner
The Baboon

Elementary School
3rd-4th grade self-contained room-Mrs. Lloyd
In our classroom we created Super Gallon Man to help the students learn about liquid measurement. Each student received a Super Gallon Man to cut and decorate as they chose. We pieced him together as a class and used him/her to assist with our conversions.
Objective: Create a Super Gallon Man to help students learn and remember liquid-measurement formulas.
Cindy White  Speech Therapy (Articulation)

Objective: The student will increase intelligibility of speech by producing the target sound /l/ in conversational speech with 95% accuracy on 3 consecutive data collection days by the IEP review date.

Activity: Kaboom

Materials Used-- /l/ picture cards (all positions), game cards (cards with point values), game bag (small bag to hold point cards), paper and pencil (to keep score).

The student will be given a picture card of an /l/ word. He is to say 3 sentences using the /l/ word that describes the object. The other player is then to try to guess the object. After the other player guesses, the player then tells him correct/incorrect and shows him the picture and names the object, the player then reaches into the bag to draw a point value card. The card will have numbers with +, -, or Kaboom written on the card. If the card has points, the student keeps a tally of his own points on the provided paper. If the card say Kaboom---the student Doubles his points. Whoever has the most points at the end of the game wins.

This game reinforces speech production in words as well as sentences. It’s also great practice for basic addition/subtraction facts.

High School

The High School self-contained class (Mrs. Prewitt) has been staying warm by “burning up the place” learning! We have been working on learning the science of flight – what is needed to get an airplane off the ground, how the wings keep the plane aloft, how to steer the plane without losing control, and how the forces of gravity, thrust, inertia, and acceleration affect the plane. In math, the students have been working out equations relating to the science of flight. They are problem solving as a group to figure out how to work together to find unknown measurement. In language arts, the students have been researching drones and the advantages and disadvantages of using them. Then, they have created powerpoints with the information so that they can share the information with others. A flight
simulation program was used as a learning tool to practice some of the concepts that were learned. The students loved “flying all over the world”!

**Objectives:**

**Science:**  The student will be able to identify and describe the forces acting on an object (plane).

The student will be able to identify forces acting on a falling object (i.e., weight, air resistance) and how those forces affect the rate of acceleration.

**Math:**  The student will be able to solve real-world and mathematical problems by writing and solving equations.

**Language Arts:**  The student will be able to integrate information presented in different media of formats, as well as in words, to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

The student will be able to write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
**TECHNOLOGY**

The technology department has been working very hard to ensure that our network, district devices and current student information are prepared for this spring’s assessments. Student data has been uploaded to the testing websites from our core data information stored in SIS and the information is verified several times prior to the district testing windows. Assessment environments for the MAP and the EOCs have been tested on desktops, laptops, and Chromebooks. A backup server is prepared to “cache” testing information in the event of issues at the testing site or district network issues. How-to documents will also be made available to counselors and test proctors for ensuring an efficient process for accessing the assessments. The technology department appreciates the patience and cooperation from the teachers who have been helping with the assessment readiness.

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

It’s springtime for Pleasant Hill Activities!

Highlights:

1. **Boy’s and Girl’s Basketball:** The Roosters and Chicks wrapped up their 2014-15 seasons this past week at the Class 4 District 13 Tournament. Both teams secured wins in their first round games, but bowed out to two tough teams in their semi-final round games. The Roosters will graduate five seniors from their team; Riley Bonnesen, Cole Miller, Trent Gilbert, Justin Orpin & Thomas Schaefer as the Chicks graduate four seniors this year; Kai Wesemann, Kaylene Bramwell, Olivia Woodruff & Sarah Hoke. Congratulations are in order for these fine young players in representing Pleasant Hill with professionalism and class! (A decision on the date of the basketball awards banquet is forthcoming.)

2. **Wrestling & Wrestling Cheer:** The Roosters will hold their annual awards ceremony Wednesday March 11th at 6pm.

3. **Band:** There will be a fundraiser dinner/concert Monday evening March 9th at Pleasant Hill High School. The concert begins at 6:30pm. Come out to hear a little jazz! Also, the Pride of the Hill will be on the road this week heading to Orlando, Florida to compete at the Universal Studios Theme Park. The kids will depart on Thursday this week on two charter buses for the long, warm journey south. Special thanks to the band boosters for making this trip possible! Details when they get back!

4. **Choir:** Pleasant Hill had ten students represent our school in the annual MRVC All-Conference Choir performance last Saturday. The choirs performed this past weekend at the Sedalia Smith-Cotton show choir competition. They will be working hard in the coming weeks preparing for district solo & ensemble competition along with district large group competition. They will hold a pre-contest performance on March 23rd at 7pm.

5. **Speech & Debate:** Will be presented on this week’s Sonic Locker Room Show to be aired Wednesday afternoon at 4:20pm on 1030 KCWJ AM Radio. The podcast can also be found at www.soniclockerroom.com sometime Wednesday evening. Be sure to check it out. They will have all this details of their competition at Park Hill this past weekend!
6. The spring athletic season has officially begun! Practices are underway for baseball, track, boys golf and girls soccer. There will be a soccer jamboree Friday March 13th from 5-7pm. Actual competition for these groups begin the week of March 20th. Come out and check out this year’s team!

7. Foreign Language Club looked at multi-platinum French musical artist Isabelle Geffroy, better known as "Zaz". Zaz is a winner of the European Border Breakers Award, which recognizes artists that reach audiences beyond their own country. Zaz's albums are available in the United States. FLC also examined the song and video for "On ira" ("We Will Go") and the remade late 60's hit "Aux Champs-Élysées" ("On the Champs-Élysées).

8. NHS: Mrs. Fifer and some of the NHS members travelled to Washington D.C. last week! A great time was had by those travelled. This is an annual trip taken by NHS. NHS inductions are scheduled for 7pm March 17th in the Performing Arts Center.

A special thanks to all our parents and patrons who consistently provide strength and support for our programs! Help us inform you by checking in on our website… www.pleasanthillactivities.org