NOVEMBER 20, 2017

DISTRICT NEWS

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bright Futures 4th Annual Breakfast

Last week Bright Futures held its Annual Breakfast to share accomplishments and solicit support of the program with the community. Some of the accomplishments mentioned were providing approximately 400 school lunch or breakfast meals for students who would have otherwise received a cheese sandwich. They have provided students with coats, shoes, pants, underwear, and other items of clothing when needed. Bright Futures has also coordinated an effort to provide children in our district with homemade, decorated birthday cakes for those who would not have gotten one making their birthday special. Each building principal and counselor has worked closely with Bright Futures committee members to help address the needs of students over the last four years. We look forward to continuing our partnership to help meet the basic needs of students. This support helps ensure student success in school!

PHPS had a great turn-out for Muffin, Mittens, and Moms! Student helpers gathered and counted all the mittens. We collected 341 pairs of gloves, 78 pairs of mittens, 60 hats, 5 pairs of socks, 1 coat, and $21.00. There will be many warm bodies and hearts in our community this winter!

First grade students in Christie Diederich’s class completed their Wonders reading assessments online. The students enjoyed being able to work at their own pace.

PHPS students in Mrs. Wenger’s kindergarten class went on a 3D shape hunt! Students found and drew examples of 3D shapes in our school. After they returned to their classroom, they shared their drawings with their classmates.

In art class at PHPS, second graders have been learning about Native American picture words and symbols and had fun making tortilla tipis!

RACE TO 100 CHALLENGE
Speech & Language - Mr. Nathan Wood

2nd grade students visiting Mr. Wood’s room were challenged to produce their speech sounds, including /r/, /s/, /th/, /z/, and /l/ blends, correctly 100 times.

Second grade students completed a Kandinsky art project.

Students participated in an activity aptly named “Race to 100” as a fun, motivating way to encourage correct sound production and motor planning. Each player rolled a set of dice during their turn, said their word or phrase the number of times corresponding to the dice, and used paint dabbers to count up to 100. The winner of the race was allowed to pick a fun activity for the group for the last 5 minutes of the session as a reward for all of their hard work.
Spotlight on Mrs. Sewell’s Class

While working in Mrs. Franklin and Ms. Schuette classes, we have come up with some great lessons. My favorite lesson in Mrs. Franklin’s class was when we did the Text Feature Surgery. We had talked about the different Text Features such as caption, title, map, chart, vocabulary, etc. Then the students got surgical masks and gloves and they did “surgery” on their person to make them better and heal them with the text features that they found. They wrote the text features on a bandaid and that is how they healed their person. Some students even went as far as to give their papers CPR. A lot of the students were talking about how they wanted to be a doctor when they grew up.

My favorite lesson in Ms. Schuette’s class so far was the PBL for Addition and Subtraction. It was called Schuette’s Shenanigan’s Cafe. The kids each got a menu and then they got to “order” using Academic Language Stems on Padlet, and learned important lessons from both APEX and Hi-STEP members! This past week we harvested vegetables from our garden and enjoyed a salad. We are currently working on using test-taking strategies on paper along with on the Chromebooks and learning strategies that will help us multiply and divide. We are looking forward to more adventures with PLTW and a field trip to Science City!

Spotlight on Mrs. Smother’s Fourth Grade Class

Mrs. Smother’s 4th grade class studied sound in Science. We learned about how sound travels in waves caused by vibrations. We also found out about pitch and frequency. To wrap up our unit, we made instruments out of cardboard. The students used Scratch to code the sounds their instruments made and then connected the instruments to the computer using Makey Makeys.

Spotlight on Mrs. Turney’s Third Grade Class

Mrs. Turney’s class had a spectacular first quarter and are off to a great second quarter! We have practiced addition and subtraction with regrouping through an “Out to Dinner” PBL, created word problems and other projects with Google Draw, communicated with each other themselves a meal. After they ordered their meal, they had to figure out their total. Once they figured out their total, they had to figure out their groups total. Finally, the whole class figured out how much they spent. They realized through doing this how much it costs to take out a whole group and how much it costs to take out a lot of people for a party. The students really enjoyed this activity and they learned a lot in the process.

Congratulation to the PHIS Students of the Week! They were selected by their teachers for exhibiting the character traits, respect and responsibility! Way to go!

PHIS students are engaged in a Reading Challenge by Teams. Mrs. Arenson, our librarian, created an elaborate board game in which teams navigate. The challenge begins when the team crashes on Reading Island and they must get to the other side to the helicopter. In order to do this, students must read and complete activities as a team. When this occurs, they move through various scenes such as Fools Island, Cozy Cove, Whispering Gardens, Temple of the Moon, Vast Volcanoes, Lost Lake, Dooms of Disaster, Lamentable Lagoon, and Misty Mountains. The first team that reaches the helicopter first earns a reward party. There are a variety of individual prizes as well which includes gift cards, prize bags, posters, an autographed book, and a tablet! Students are excited about this challenge; it has been a close race among some teams!

Sixth grade students are learning about the circulatory and respiratory systems in PE class. Students participated in various stations that engaged both systems such as jumping rope, doing sit-ups, using eye-hand coordination to hit hockey pucks with hockey sticks and much more. Additionally, at each station, students collaborated with team members in order to answer a specific question about the systems. Students used appropriate vocabulary in their written responses and their conversations included key terms as well.
Middle School

Left: Mrs. Campbell introduces Bryenna McConnell, Air Force Staff Sergeant, who presented at the November 10 Veteran’s Day assembly. Center: Prior to the assembly, veterans gathered in the library for a coffee social. Right: UCM hosted a Introducing Girls to Engineering where PHMS girls developed projects to challenge their ingenuity.

PHMS has enjoyed a successful November. ELA and math retested Illuminate/DnA last week. This will provide data to teachers to guide future instruction. Mrs. Zrust took some PHMS singers to district choir at UCM on Saturday, November 4. On November 10 and 11, Mrs. Dowdy attended a state conference and was named North Central Middle School PE teacher of the year by MOAPEHRD. Friday, November 10, also marked Veteran’s Day and PHMS celebrated with a breakfast and assembly honoring those who have served. Science students continue with PLTW curriculum. Eighth graders are conducting labs to test the nature and quality of the five senses. Middle School activities and clubs are well underway; not all are mentioned here but these are a few examples. Art Club, Life Smarts, Technology Student Association have been meeting this fall to extend curriculum in art, family and consumer sciences, and science respectively. Additionally nature, herpetology, and book clubs meet weekly to allow students to pursue interests outside the classroom. Student Council develops activities for the building while yearbook is capturing the school year in pictures and words. Wrestlers began their season last week, and the boys’ and girls’ basketball teams have home games on November 20 at the high school and intermediate school respectively.

High School

All-District Band Honors
Congratulations to Sophia Harvey, Sydney Lamborn, Alaina Umscheid, and Gennavieve Wrobel for being selected to the All-District Band. Sydney Lamborn was also selected for the All-District Jazz Band.

Two HS Students Named to the All-State Choir
Alex Pierce (Sr) and Grace Riley (Jr) were recently chosen to represent Pleasant Hill High School as members of the All-State Choir.

PHHS Child Development Classes at the Preschool and Primary School
Mrs. Smith’s child development classes have completed their three week rotation at Pleasant Hill Primary School.

PHHS Scholar Bowl
The PHHS Scholar Bowl team was awarded $500 and the Green Lantern Excellence in Education Award by Green Lantern Car Wash. Representatives from the Lee’s Summit Green Lantern Car wash were on hand to present this award to Mr. Moore and the scholar bowl team.
Mrs. Felden’s Math Class
The students in Consumer Math are performing operations with money. The objective for this lesson is for the students to understand how to count and identify money so they can set up a budget that includes rent, utilities, and living expenses. The classroom was set up in three different stations. The first station required the students to read and write money expressions. The second station required the students to use money manipulatives to count money. The third station required the students to write the correct amount of money using dollar signs and decimal points. The students would rotate to each station for 20 minutes. This would allow several practice attempts for each area. The expectation is for students to be able to understand money in a variety of ways and be able to use a checkbook and checkbook register to add and subtract bills correctly. This activity was used as a formative assessment to check the understanding of individual students.

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

Highlights:

Rooster Cheer, Football & Cross Country: The Rooster football cheerleaders and the Rooster football players will be celebrating their seasons Monday evening along with the cross country team. Cheer and football will be in the PAC and cross country will be in the media center.

The Annual Show: The Annual Show was a hit as performers put on a show for a packed house in the PHHS performing arts center Friday night! The PHHS choirs performed as the Annual Show royalty was crowned! Congratulations to Nathaniel Holmes and Tori Long!

The Winter Sports season gets underway this week!
The Chicks basketball team gets underway at Clinton Monday night (tonight) with a tripleheader beginning at 4:30pm.
The Roosters Basketball team hosts Ray-Pec in JV/V action on November 28th; 5:30pm.
The Rooster Wrestling program travels to St. Joe Benton on Tuesday the 28th; 5pm participating in a quad meet with Winnetonka, Savannah and Benton high schools.

Choir: Two students have earned the right to be a part of this year’s All-State Choir which will perform at the Missouri Music Educators Association conference at the end of January. The members are Grace Riley and Alexandra Pierce! Congratulations ladies!

Scholar Bowl: The junior varsity scholar bowl team took 3rd place at the William Chrisman JV Fall Classic on November 11th!

Several students attended the Western Missouri Sportsmanship Conference held in Independence Mo. last week. The kids had an opportunity to hear Royals great Jeff Montgomery speak about sportsmanship among other topics. They had the opportunity to break out into sessions with peers from other schools to talk about what good sportsmanship is and how it should be carried out at our schools.

High School Play: The High School play, “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!” had awesome performances last week! The show was exceptional and you missed a good one if you didn’t make it to the show!

Primary School continued

Mrs. Robinson’s kindergarten students played a game called “Toss the Beans”. Students worked in pairs. Each student in each pair had five counters that were tossed together. Then the students counted how many were red and how many were white to make 10. Students learned that there are many ways to get the sum of 10.