CURRICULUM
Quality Assurance Visits Conducted

Each year during State testing the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) require quality assurance visits be conducted. This year the visits were self-monitoring visits. The district test coordinator, Dr. Becky Gallagher, observed a 3rd grade ELA assessment at the Elementary School and an Algebra I assessment at the High School. The findings of the quality assurance visit were reported to DESE. Most importantly the quality assurance visits showed the district followed protocol in all areas of testing.

It was apparent throughout the observations the students were well prepared by their teachers for the test and had the stamina necessary to attend to a test of this length and difficulty. As a part of the visit, classroom visuals are checked for lack of content and process help. It was encouraging to see posters created by students to support each other in this endeavor. It was evident the Pleasant Hill students are proud to show how much they have learned throughout the year. Building counselors and administrators, as well as classroom teachers, have done an outstanding job to make sure state testing runs smoothly. Also, the technology department has been available in buildings to ensure the seamless delivery of the electronic tests.

FACILITIES

The initial phase of the irrigation project on Skyline Field is almost complete. The outfield system has been installed and the controller is being installed this week. The infield heads will be placed once the fence is moved forward along with the infield being moved closer to the outfield fence. This will take place once the summer softball season is complete and prior to the high school season beginning.

The District portion of work on the drainage project at the Sports Complex baseball field has been completed with the exception of moving some gravel. The City will do backfill and complete the rest of the project.

A canopy project at the Middle School eating area is underway. The canopy will provide shade for the students who eat their lunches outside. The Positive School Climate (Student Focus Group) and Student Council combined for the purchase of materials and the District is providing installation.
The District Safety Committee met on April 16, 2015. Topics this month included: a status update on security items for classrooms; bus safety drills in the upcoming weeks; Cass County Community Health Foundation dental services; Keep Them Safe Program consideration; and a review of recent events when a student was approached at a bus stop.

**PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The last few weeks of school at the Primary School are filled with field trips, class performances, Park Days, and exciting projects. In the midst of all this, learning continues to be a top priority. Students are taking the Discovery Education benchmark assessments in reading and math, and the Gates-MacGinitie reading assessment, as well as writing their final performance events. Our “culture of math” continues to grow, as evidenced by student displays throughout the halls, such as the “measuring me” activity, and classroom tasks, such as the maze design. Teachers are busy preparing for the end of this school year and the beginning of the next, meeting about curriculum, resources, class lists, and assessment results. We are all looking forward to Hat Day on May 1, when everyone is encouraged to donate a dollar to wear a hat, with proceeds benefiting Camp Quality of KC, an organization that runs summer camps for children with cancer. Our PTO Hospitality Committee is planning wonderful treats and meals for staff during National Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-8. Kindergarten teachers and I are looking forward to greeting new students and their families at Kindergarten Round-Up on May 11.

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

We are in week 3 of our state testing schedule. Staff and students have worked diligently to stay focused and flexible throughout the ELA and Math testing sessions. Special Thanks to Terri Zimerschied who has organized all of the testing for our school and to the Technology Department who have ensured that we are ready to test each day. Students at the ES are using their strategies and showing great stamina throughout the testing sessions. So, each day we announce the names of 4 students who can select a prize from the “We Can” table.

As an extension of their Missouri History unit, our fourth graders are heading to the National Frontier Trails Museum this week. Last week our 3rd graders traveled to Kauffman Performing Arts Center to attend the Symphony and
participate in the “Linked Up” workshop. Both are wonderful events for our students.

Research continues to be a focus for all classrooms as we integrate the power skills of questioning, note taking, summarizing and paraphrasing. Students have been especially focused on the quality of their final products. We are proud of their efforts. Here are some examples:

This week concludes our school supply drive for students in Swaziland. This is a culminating outreach activity to the Skype/PBL event hosted by Mr. McDavitt and Mrs. Pickett’s classes. PHES students raised $170.00 with their dollar hat day to help pay for shipping of the supplies.

The PHES staff met during plan time last week to reflect upon the work we have done this year with students and parents. Teachers are also in the process of choosing our building-wide themes for the 2015-16 school year and are collaborating on schedules, teams and the continuation of the Crayola Grant work for the upcoming school year. We will continue these discussions at our staff meeting next week.

**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

“Students of the Week” are: Sam Fenton, Liam McCall, Tommy Riffle, Addison Zurcher, Jay Powell, Jadyn Dowdy. We congratulate these students for their outstanding character and deeds.

We have some very talented art students at PHIS! At the Missouri Art Educators Association Conference Chanie Campbell won Honorable Mention, Ashlyn Long won 1st Place and Gabby Lopez won Best of Show! Our World Art class won Best of Show for the board, Hungry Eyes.
Mrs. Reynolds won second place for her own personal artwork as well. Congratulations to all for outstanding work!

These two Phyre teams placed first and second in the KC Metro Elementary division of the The Stock Market Game. There were 73 teams in the division. The ladies’ team placed first in the division and 17th in the state competition, competing with over 900 teams. They will be honored at a banquet at the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City on May 13th.

Students invested $100,000 the stock market game. The teams that earned the highest percentage return on their investments were the winners.

Our state testing dates are April 22-May 4. We are proud of how hard our students have worked all year and are excited to get the results back. They created a video about testing and doing their best; it can be viewed at: http://youtu.be/3De1-ARcNys.

Our next edition of PHIS Rooster Report is available at https://youtu.be/YYuVpdHKqhY. Our student newspaper staff has been working hard writing articles, interviewing individuals and videoing. We hope you enjoy it.

MIDDLE SCHOOL
As many of you know our last middle school dance of the year is scheduled for Friday, May 1st. We are going to change our dance times for this last “Spring Fling” dance, so we can also support one of our own 7th grade students at a special activity hosted later that evening.

Our middle school dance on Friday, May 1, will begin right after school and end at 5:00pm. Students wishing to attend our last dance are encouraged to just stay after school on Friday rather than go home first. This dance will be a typical spring dance and no dress-up necessary at all! We will have our regular bus/parent pick-up dismissal at 2:37 on Friday, but students who wish to stick around rather than ride the bus home can hang out in their 7th hour class until we are ready for the dance festivities to begin. We anticipate that we will open our dance gate and music will begin at 3pm. Admission is $5, payable at the door. Pictures can be purchased for an additional $2.

Later that evening, a “Glow Bowl & Silent Auction” is being hosted at Summit Lanes in Lee’s Summit. We hope to see a big Pleasant Hill Pride turnout for this special evening of fun! Come out to Summit Lanes next Friday night after the dance from 7-9 PM to support one of our own, Shyann Jellison! Grab your family and friends for a fun night of bowling, a silent auction, and a 50/50 raffle! All proceeds will go to Shyann’s family to help in her treatment for leukemia. Come out and help her fight!
This week we begin a modified block schedule to accommodate our building-wide MAP testing. We will be on the following schedule for this week and next. At the conclusion of block 4, all students report to Advisory class until dismissal. *7th grade schedule is in red*, and *8th grade schedule is in red*.

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|       | 1-May | CA 1 (90) |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|       |       | 1-May |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|       | 4-May | Regular Day, 8th grade ELA teachers teach classroom activity. |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|       | 5-May | CA2 (60) | CA 3 (60) |         |         | Math 1 (90) |         |         |
|       |       | 6-May | M-1 (90) |         |         |         |         |         |
|       |       | 7-May | Regular day, 8th grade Math teachers, teach classroom activity |         |         |         |         |         |
|       | 8-May | M-3(60) | M-4 (60) |         |         |         |         |         |
High school Geometry classes are currently studying Graph Theory. Mrs. Case's classes explored the Bridges of Konigsburg problem, which is a classic math problem originally solved by Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler in 1735. In the problem the townspeople are trying to walk on each of the town's bridges exactly once. The geometry students proved that it was impossible to cross every bridge once and then concluded to “fix” the problem that one bridge would need to be removed. Students explored options for bridge removal and discovered that by removing one bridge they had created an Eulerian Path and that by removing two bridges they could create an Eulerian Circuit. After students explored the problem on a scaled replica created with a tarp and duct tape they then practiced determining other networks using pencil and paper. Students ended the hour by discussing real life uses for graph theory including snow removal crews route plan and driving routes for vacation.

Freshmen Physical Science
In our current unit the students are studying the Periodic Table of the Elements, and learning how different elements combine to form chemical compounds. They are learning how to determine the chemical formulas for these compounds, along with the chemical and physical properties that result. They put this information to use by using molecular model kits to construct the different molecules for each compound. They also used a computer simulation to construct molecules and determine such properties as molecular mass and reactivity of each compound. The students reviewed for the test over this material using an on-line classroom quiz (Kahoots) and their smart phones to compete against the other Physical Science classes.
The Office
This week we are sharing more of our knowledge of Co Teaching. Co Teachers presented to the board some of our success stories. We thought it would be nice to share more information that support our efforts for student success. We do not walk alone in our journey to provide support through co-teaching.

The following are schools that are being trained through RPDC (either their entire staff or some buildings within the district):

- Cameron
- Concordia
- Holden
- Lafayette County
- Richmond
- Sedalia
- Warrensburg
- Alta Vista MS and HS
- Brookside MS
- Crossroads Elementary and MS
- Scuola Vita Nuova Elementary and MS
- Della Lamb (entire staff)
- Hope Leadership (entire staff)

Additionally all Missouri Universities are using the Co Teaching model for all of their student teaching experiences.

Donn Harrison, a Kansas City metro teacher, is getting national recognition for being one of the country’s top teachers. He was featured on “Live with Kelly and Michael”. He spoke of how co teaching is working for them.

Primary
The ECSE class has a tree in the classroom that changes with the seasons! With the start of each new season the class learns about that season and decorates the tree appropriately. This spring we learned about the signs of spring and made apple blossoms for our tree!

This month in Speech & Language Therapy, Mr. Wood's articulation students completed a project requiring them to drill and self-monitor their own sound productions. Each group, consisting of 2-4 students, designed their own kite and drilled each word making up their "strings" 10 times. The length of the kite string is determined by how many times students were able to produce their sounds in words without making any mistakes. The students were pleased to see that they were able to produce their sounds 8, 9, and 10 times resulting in long kite strings that fill one whole the wall of the speech room."
Intermediate
Mrs. Liautaud/Mrs. Cochran, 6th Grade Math, MAP Math Review Relay

Objective: Students will apply strategies to solve mathematical problems.

Lesson: Students work in table groups to solve a variety of math problems by applying strategies they have learned throughout the school year. Each person in the group is expected to solve the problem then the group members compare their work and decide on the correct answer. The correct answer and accompanying work is written on each group member’s whiteboard. The teacher randomly picks a person from each group to hold up their whiteboard or go to the front of the room and write the answer/work on the classroom whiteboard. The groups with the correct answer receive a tally mark. At the end of the relay the winning group(s) will get a reward.

Note: This lesson allows students to utilize and apply strategies they learned throughout the year. The discussion generated through teamwork causes students to think critically about the math while providing a safe environment to correct the steps used to find “wrong” answers which results in a deeper understanding of the math concepts. The teacher is able to use this activity as a formative assessment of the students’ knowledge of the mathematical concepts and gives the opportunity for immediate re-teaching of the concepts if necessary.
Middle
Special Education Co Teaching, Math

Both 7th and 8th graders are preparing for the MAP/Smarter Balance testing that is coming up. We use the first 10 to 15 minutes in class to review through our focus questions. In 8th grade, we just finished up learning about nonlinear functions and how to determine if a function is nonlinear from a graph, table, and equation. We are now learning about Bivariate Categorical Data. We have been learning the difference between Numerical and Categorical data. We are also learning how to take data from a survey and put it into a table. In 7th grade, we just finished up learning about population samples and generalizing from a sample to a population. This includes the best way to collect data, whether by total population or a sample of the population, how to determine whether data is population data or sample data and learned about what a census is. We are now starting to learn about MultiStep Ratio problems.

High
The High School Special Education students participated in the Cass County Job Olympics on April 10th at the High Blue Wellness Center. The students have been working all year to perfect their skills - and it showed! Pleasant Hill was well represented by seven students this year who showed the county how good it is to be a Rooster.

This activity was the culmination of many of hours of hard work in the classroom learning, practicing, and then demonstrating a job-related skill. Every student participated in filling out job applications and having interviews. Each student also picked 3 other events in which to compete - our students competed in custodial, car detailing, computer skills, silverware rolling, place setting, child care, host/hostess, pet care, laundry folding, first aid, bagging groceries, and stocking shelves.

Skills: Pre-Vocational Skills, Oral and Written Communication, Sequencing, Following Directions, Patterning, and Organization
The Technology Department has been busy preparing and monitoring the district network and equipment for the MAP test and EOC.
exams. Testing at the High School is completed while the Elementary and Intermediate Schools are currently administering the tests. The Middle School will begin testing later this week on the Chromebook and computers in the labs. The staggered schedule has helped the department be in each building on their first day of testing to help with any questions or issues with the testing process. The equipment and network have all been performing optimally throughout the administration of the tests and exams. Everyone in the department appreciates the cooperation of students and staff with their limited use of the network during the testing process to help our students have an efficient process for taking their tests.

Pleasant Hill Activities… “It’s a GREAT Day to be a Rooster/Chick!”

Highlights:

1. Baseball: The Roosters were wondering if they were going to play any baseball there for awhile. The Grandview tournament was washed out last Saturday, however the double header was made up this past Thursday evening in Pleasant Hill. The Roosters were able to sweep the doubleheader vs. Pembroke Hill and Grandview after gaining a thrilling MRVC West victory the previous evening in Odessa. The Roosters defeated the Bulldogs 2-1. They will play Odessa on Tuesday of this week followed by games on the road at O’Hara (played at Hidden Valley Park in Blue Springs) Thursday and at Harrisonville on Friday.

2. Band: The jazz band travelled to the 18th & Vine district last week providing an awesome experience for our kids playing in the historic venue. The band brought home some “outstanding” performance awards at the festival. The spring concert for the band program will be held on Thursday May 7th at 7pm.

3. Choir: The show choirs were at it again as they travelled to Illinois this time to strut their stuff in their final competition of the season. The Hillside show will be presented on Saturday, May 2nd at 7pm this year with tickets available in the counseling center at PHHS. Come out and be entertained by an excellent group of musicians in an awesome show!

4. Theatre: The theatre department just completed an outstanding play “Fools” - by Neil Simon. The audience was rolling in their chairs laughing at the comedic presentation. The actors did a splendid job in the performance. They announced next year’s musical at the end of Friday’s performance…”Footloose!”

5. Boy’s Golf: The Rooster golf team keeps winning and winning and winning. Last week they brought home another MRVC West Championship. They will begin district play on May 4th in Grandview. Competition is fierce however Coach Bloom has high expectations for the varsity team.

6. Girl’s Soccer: The Chicks soccer keeps piling up the wins this season! The Chicks have a busy week this week as they travel to Warrensburg on Wednesday and host Excelsior Springs on Thursday. Senior night for the Chicks will be Monday May 4th vs. the O’Hara Lady Celtics.

7. Scholar Bowl: The scholar bowl team’s arrow was definitely pointing up this season. They fell just short of advancing in districts this year, but the group and coach are motivated and excited to improve on this year’s accomplishments. Coach Moore is excited to get things going for next year and to continue to build a stronger more competitive group representing PHHS. The kids performed marvelously this year gaining victories against teams they’ve never beaten.
8. Track & Field: The Roosters and Chicks have been working very hard this season as the athletes are improving with every meet, which is the goal heading into the conference meet and the district meet. Donna Borer has already broken the Chick's school record in the discuss and plans to do it again with yet another personal best. Multiple athletes are experiencing growth in their respective events. The JV will be hosting a MRVC West “Finale” meet on Tuesday May 5th at Eklund Stadium. Also, the teams will be hosting an annual fundraiser...the All-Comers Meet on Saturday May 9th at Eklund Field. This is an opportunity for kids, young and old, to participate in a local meet. Come check things out on May 9th!

9. PHHS will be hosting the spring National Letter Signing Ceremony for several seniors on Tuesday May 5th at 7:15am. Come down to the HS that morning and send off some of your favorite senior athletes during our ceremony!

Help us inform you by checking in on our website... www.pleasanthillactivities.org. Advertising opportunities are available which will assist our activities department. Have a great week!