PRIMARY SCHOOL

Primary School students have been busy in our computer lab with Discovery Education online testing in reading and math. Kindergarten students will finish this week. Teachers are meeting to determine instructional needs, specifically which students will benefit from Response to Intervention. Our “Rooster Time” reading intervention program will begin Sept. 17, after two days of our “Barnyard Round-Up”: practicing procedures for changing classrooms for coops or barnyards. Rooster Time provides small-group instruction on foundational skills for designated students in classes of 25 minutes daily, four days a week. The 1st. and 2nd. grade “concert choir” practices start this week after school, under the direction of Ms. Aly Oparnico. Our recent celebrations include 62 students who met the PS Summer Reading Challenge, reading and submitting logs of 25 books before the start of school, the ice bucket challenge taken by Mrs. Haight in front of all the students after staff raised a sizable donation for ALS, and a wedding shower for 1st. grade teacher Amanda English.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At the Elementary School we have launched into our Problem Based Learning initiative which is connected to our theme “Dreams under Construction”. Examples of this could be found in both 3rd and 4th grade last week, when students were given a scenario in which their classrooms were awarded a large sum of money. Students had to determine how to divide the money and then construct a plan on how to best spend it. At fourth grade students received $2,800,000 and at 3rd grade they received $22,000. The dollar amounts awarded were aligned to the place values each grade level is currently studying. These young mathematicians used the skills of estimation, rounding, researching, computation and journaling during this two day experience. Project Based Learning is far more engaging than a worksheet and encourages students to work collaboratively, use the language of math, and work to find multiple solutions. Students and teachers are excited about the learning that is occurring.

This week, teachers have been given a half day release to re-calibrate their expectations for the scoring of students' writing. This professional development will ensure that all staff has the same understanding of proficiency and the scoring rubric. Also this week,
our Student Leadership club has issued a challenge to the student body. They are hoping to collect over 600 canned goods for the Pleasant Hill Food Pantry to feed the needy. If we collect at least 600 cans, then Mrs. Herrera and the specials teachers will get a bucket of ice water dumped on them! Great things are happening at PHES; it is sure to be another busy week.

**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**
Again this year at PHIS we will recognize “Students of the Week”. Students are recognized by teacher teams for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to: showing and giving respect, being kind and thoughtful, being responsible and persevering. Our students of the week are introduced every Friday in the Morning Motivator for the following week. Our students of the week this week are: Karis Bloom, Aston Morris, Zach Redwine, Keegan Zizza, Robert Cole Jobe and Jesse Mathes. We congratulate each of them!

We had several 5th and 6th grade students participate in the summer reading challenge. Fifth grade students read at least 500 pages while 6th grade students read at least 750 pages. The reward party consisted of social and snack time; they also selected free books and read.

Our before and after school clubs and activities started after Labor Day weekend. They are off to a great start. Research shows that students that are more involved at school have a greater sense of belonging and achieve more. It is wonderful seeing so many students get involved; we have had 40+ students involved with intramurals and 80+ students involved with Honor Choir. Our other clubs include: Rooster Reading Club, Study Club, Math Clubs (3 different ones), Student Council, Intramurals, Youth for Truth, Positive School Climate/F.O.R., Art Club, Newspaper Club and Computer Club.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

In both 7th and 8th grade ELA classes, we have completed setting our goals for the quarter. Many students created goal visuals to hang in the classroom to view their middle school, personal, and reading goals throughout the year. Others wrote their goals down in an essay or in a letter to
themselves. This week we will begin reviewing and expanding on literary elements with hands-on activities, picture books, and vocabulary activities, concentrating on some of our multiple intelligences. After all students have an understanding of the literary elements, both 7th and 8th graders will begin a short story unit consisting of some classics: “Rikki-tikki-tavi”, excerpt from An American Childhood, “The Adventure of the Speckled Band”, and “Flowers for Algernon”.

While technology class elective may be a “new class” to the middle school, technology applications have proven to be no stranger to the 7th graders. Over the last couple of weeks, students have focused on refreshing their keying skills by setting a starting point in their speed and accuracy. Ms. McKee is proud to announce that all students have shown improvement with some students nearly doubling their speeds and completing their exercises with a 95% or above accuracy rate. In addition to improving our keyboarding skills, we have focused on Google Document to insure our basic formatting skills are presentable for any potential reports or essays given in other classes. In the coming week, we will begin Google Spreadsheet. With this particular application, we will focus on collecting numerical data and interpreting it through the usage of Google charts and graphs.

**High School**

All Language Arts students at Pleasant Hill High School have been to the Library Media Center during the first few weeks to attend a presentation by Library Media Center Specialist, Mrs. Carrie Hardin regarding the 2014 Gateway Readers Award books. These books have been chosen by high school students in Missouri as outstanding books that appeal to the needs, interests and reading levels of young adults.

Pleasant Hill High School has 134 copies of Gateway books in the building. The Gateway reading program is so popular that the books are hard to keep on the shelves. Each year students are rewarded for reading these award-winning books. Students who read at least four Gateway books by the deadline are invited to attend a pizza luncheon in the library. Five students have already completed the challenge within the first three weeks of the school year.
“We Give” is a student service organization sponsored by Mr. Steve Moore that works in conjunction with the Pleasant Hill Community Betterment Association to help the community enhance life through overall community development, planning and implementation. This group is made up of leaders from all of the other activities and organizations at PHHS. This week representatives from the organization will be attending the state evaluation of the Pleasant Hill Community Betterment Association. Students will be presenting the work that they have accomplished with the “Bench Project”. The goal of the project is to sell the benches to organizations, businesses, or individuals. All of these benches have been made by PHHS Agriculture students and will be placed at strategic locations throughout town. Be on the look-out for future projects and events hosted by the “We Give” organization.

SPECIAL SERVICES

September 2nd and 11th, Dr. Gallagher and Miss Hamilton facilitated training for the Self Contained Classroom Sped Teachers. The changes in the Map Alternative test are requiring extensive training. Each MAP-A teacher must complete 29 training modules. Each module has a training video, pretest, activity and a post test. After completing that set, they have an additional 8 modules that are followed by a post test. On all 37 modules, each teacher must earn an 80% or higher. There are additional webinars for The Sped director, Asst. Superintendent, and Data Technician that are being held on September 8th. This new program allows the teacher to use the DLM (Dynamic Learning Maps) system to guide curriculum. The students will do individualized select Math and ELA lessons on the computer each week which will guide the system to “test” them on the material they have covered throughout the year. MAP-A Science will be evaluated in the same way as it has been done in the past.
TECHNOLOGY

This Fifth Grade class is diving right into our second year of the iPad classroom initiative. Mr. Haight and his students are using a mind mapping app called Simple Minds to help organize their study of invertebrates. Mind maps are an excellent way for students to take smaller “chunks” of information and connect them in order to understand complex concepts. In this classroom, students are taking notes on the characteristics of mollusks in order to understand the larger concepts of invertebrates and other classes of species. Creating a visual of the characteristics also helps students recall the information and an excellent use of iPads in the classroom.
PLEASANT HILL ACTIVITIES… “IT’S A GREAT DAY TO BE A ROOSTER/CHICK!”

What a time for Pleasant Hill Activities!

Highlights:

1. Football: The Roosters won a good game vs. Warrensburg on August 29th; 17-8. They dropped their game vs. St. James Academy this past week. The team performed their annual community betterment service event recently. The boys picked up trash in high traffic areas of Pleasant Hill contributing to the beautification of our city!

2. Volleyball: The Chicks have been strong out of the box this season with victories over Holden, Smithville and Pembroke Hill. Coach Creason was recently a guest on the Sonic Locker Room Show on 1030am radio. The interview can be found on [www.soniclockerroom.com](http://www.soniclockerroom.com).

3. Softball: The Chicks began their MRVC West season with a strong victory over rival Grain Valley; 12-2. They dropped a close one at home vs. Oak Grove Thursday evening 5-4. The girls take on Harrisonville (Tuesday) and Odessa (Thursday) this week on the road. They will also play at Nevada on Friday night. The Chicks will be participating in the Winnetonka Tournament all day on Saturday, September 13th!

4. Boys Soccer had a strong showing at the Clinton Tournament this past week. They defeated Clinton 2-1 and St. Paul's 6-2 while dropping their match vs. Fatima 6-4 after taking them to a regulation 2-2 tie. They have a heavy week this week travelling to Oak Grove Monday and Home Tuesday to Pembroke Hill (4:30 start) and Thursday vs Clinton (5pm).

5. Girl's Golf had a very busy week last week as they played 4 matches! They have a Varsity Tournament at Lawson on Tuesday. This year's squad is relatively inexperienced but raising a few eyebrows with their performances early.

6. Be sure to get to the First Responder's Night this week at the home football game vs. Smith-Cotton. The Marching Band will be sporting their new uniforms as we honor those who help us every single day keeping our community safe!

7. This week’s guest on the Sonic Locker Room Show will be Coach Al Iantorno representing the boys soccer program!

Don’t forget to follow Pleasant Hill Activities on Twitter @PHHSactivities! It is a great way to stay connected and informed. Rooster alerts are also available, but will be used only as a resource to communicate changes in schedules or cancellations.