Even with the arrival of Santa Claus looming, PS students are busy learning, as evidenced by hall displays throughout the building. We are excited about letters to Santa, holiday storybooks and crafts, and lost Gingerbread Men. The 2nd grade performance of “The Big Chill” was a well-attended success, and music teacher Aly Oparnico received lots of recognition from parents and staff for her preparation and instruction. Kindergarten classes are welcoming grandparents for various class events this coming week. The annual PTO Holiday Shoppe is open on Dec. 6, and Tricia Beaman is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair in our library all week, with Family Night on Tuesday. All grade levels will have completed our second benchmark tests in reading and math using Discovery Education online assessments by the end of next week, and teachers are already comparing data with Sept. results. We are continuing our work on math curriculum and 6 Trait writing, and looking forward to some grade-level collaboration on Jan. 2.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PHES staff and students are hard at work preparing for our second annual Elementary Extravaganza Night on December 18th. The Extravaganza will feature learning from first semester while showcasing our Crayola Grant and Dreams under Construction theme. The evening will be divided into 15 minute station rotations starting at 5:55pm and concluding at 7:45pm. Stations will include
constructing a song with Mrs. Shaffer in the music room, building the tallest structure in the gym with Mrs. Reeves drinking hot chocolate while you listen to student authors read their writing in the brewing writer’s café, building a story using the application Book Creator with Mrs. Halfmann, designing a snowball catapult, exploring Google Sketch, meeting engineers to learn about electricity, creating a holiday card utilizing the Ipad, entering the raffle to win a prizes and so much more!

**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

“Students of the Week” are: Makenzie Carlile, Emily Hill, Jay Powell, Charisma Werner, Own Gish, Kaylyn Goodman. We congratulate these students for their outstanding character and deeds. Congratulations to the PHIS Students of the Month: Lillie Burgess, Wendy Duran, Elijah Reynolds, Paige Gustin, Jay Shuler, Chayden Kirkpatrick, Joey Gomez, Karleigh Ogan, Isabel Baken, Jenna Marconett, Sarah Wilhoit, Aubrey Scott and Evan Howell! They were selected by their peers for exhibiting the character trait, kindness!

Our Honor Choir will be performing on Wednesday, December 10\textsuperscript{th} at Crown Center. Approximately 85 of our students will be participating in this event; we are excited that so many of our students are actively involved. Students will remain after school on this day to celebrate their hard work with a pizza party and a final rehearsal before taking their music on the road! Students will ride the bus to Crown Center and perform at 5:45pm.

PHIS will end the first semester with a winter program. This will take place in the afternoon on Friday, December 19\textsuperscript{th}. We will begin our program with an awards assembly. Students will be recognized for outstanding effort; exhibiting the character traits, kindness and respect; and for Perfect Attendance for 1\textsuperscript{st} semester. The rest of the program will include special performances by our choirs, band, a Minute to Win It activity, an ugly sweater staff contest, and Pie in the Face! We look forward to this tradition and continuing to build a positive climate!

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Middle school winter activity season is well underway! Pleasant Hill Middle School choir classes are busy preparing for our upcoming winter concerts! Our big focuses in class have been sight reading with solfege to become better music readers, developing part tolerance so that students sing their parts accurately while other sections sing different parts at the same time, and adding expressive elements to the music such as dynamics, phrasing, articulations, and facial expression so our performance is interesting for an audience to observe. Students will first perform on Saturday, December 6\textsuperscript{th} for the Mayor’s Christmas Tree Lighting in downtown
Pleasant Hill at 5:30pm. Our second performance will be on Wednesday, December 10th at Crown Center at 6:30pm, and our final performance this holiday season will be on December 19th for our school assembly. Students will be performing a variety of music including: a Medieval Spanish chant titled “Cuncti Simus”, a duet from Handel’s oratorio “Judeas Maccabeus” called “Sing For Joy!,” a 16th Century Spanish Lullaby called “A La Puerta Del Cielo,” a song titled “Bells” with text by the famous poet Edgar Allan Poe, as well as some traditional Christmas Carols and holiday favorites. Music is a great way to celebrate the holiday season. We would be so pleased if you would join us for one of our performances!

The 2014 wrestling season kicked off on Thursday, November 20 at Odessa with a quad against Odessa, Lexington, and Excelsior Springs. The Middle School Wrestlers have been working very hard since the start of the season on October 27th and are ready to show off their hard work on the mats. They have been practicing every day out in the sports complex with Coach Leslie and Coach Gasper. The team is 23 wrestlers strong this year, and we anticipate having a positive season! This year we will also wrestle in the first MRVC Middle School Wrestling Tournament (both East & West sides participating).

Basketball also fills up almost every evening these next few weeks. Our middle school boys basketball players hosted our first home game last Monday evening in our middle school gym against Harrisonville. The 8th grade team won their contest 33-27, and the 7th grade boys won 31-6. The boys basketball team is looking forward to another exciting season! We have a strong group of boys this year including twelve 8th graders and twelve 7th graders. The 8th grade team is being coached by Coach Hutzell and the 7th grade team by Coach Kober. We appreciate all the hard work that the boys have put in thus far!

This year the Girls Basketball Team has started the season with 23 girls. This year’s group includes eight 8th graders and fifteen 7th graders. Returners from last year’s A Team that went 11-4 include Averee Brattin, Taylor Shewmaker and Cassie Waddle. Multiple individuals from last year’s B Team will have the opportunity to continue playing are Sydney Bunch, Danielle Lichte, Zoe Crockett, Kennedy Burton and Miranda Kelley. The first game of the season was Monday, November 24th at Harrisonville. Our first home game is Monday, December 8th against Odessa.
**High School**

On December 4, 2014, PHHS hosted our annual ACT workshop for students taking the exam in December and January. Students were placed into groups based on previous ACT scores or PLAN assessment scores. Students received targeted instruction that corresponded to their ACT or PLAN assessment levels. High school staff members that attended a recent ACT training workshop provided the review in the areas of Mathematics, Reading, English, and Science. Following the instruction portion of the day, students had the option to take an ACT practice exam in the afternoon. All students that registered for the ACT workshop received a publication from ACT designed to help them be successful on the test.

Within the next few weeks at Pleasant Hill High School students will begin the process of planning for the 2015-2016 school year by attending presentations about Summit Technology Academy and Cass Career Center. Representatives will be at Pleasant Hill High School to outline the various programs and opportunities that each campus offers. Interested students will be allowed to tour the facilities and make a determination if they are going to pursue the competitive admissions requirements into these programs.

On December 9, 2014, from 9:00-11:00 a.m., Pleasant Hill High School will host our annual Grandparents’ Day festivities. During this day, the vocal and instrumental music groups will perform, prior to refreshments and a visit from special guest. Additionally, the FFA will have fruit and plants for sale in the commons area. Grandparents’ Day is sponsored by the PHHS Student Council and is highly anticipated by students and Grandparents alike. Students can register for this event by turning in forms to the office prior to Friday, December 5, 2014.

**Special Services**

The Office

Referrals and re evaluations are continuing. As some are completed more are added to the list. Ms. Hamilton attended the 2nd Cass County Community Networking Group in Peculiar. The following link is to 4 question survey that will help the group access and meet needs in Cass County: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QWHJRYX](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QWHJRYX)

We are also working with Darlene Eslick and Dena Alexander to complete the mandated December 1 count due to DESE.

The Early Childhood Special Education class has been working on naming colors and learning directional/positional words. They have also been singing the song "Turkey in the Brown Straw " as part of a farm theme. To combine these units of study, the children made turkeys for the class bulletin board and gave directions as to where they wanted their turkeys placed. It was a fun and educational activity!
High School

Tammy Prewitt submitted a student’s name to Autism Speaks to receive an iPad. The iPad was awarded to him so that he could take it home so he can have electronic access similar to the opportunity he has at school. The award package will include the iPad, a case and soft cover by Trident case, and informational packets from Autism Speaks. He will receive this by mail mid December.

The above picture is a group of students around our Rooster Cart. We have started selling items at the High School. It is a total success! We are now getting requests for more items to be offered. The students have also requested for the cart to be available more times and days. At the present time the cart offers a variety of healthy snacks, sugar free gum, pens, paper, graph paper, chapstick, tissues, water.

**Technology**

In preparation for Chromebooks carts being placed in their classrooms, Middle School English Language Arts teachers have been working very hard to incorporate technology into their curriculum units and lesson plans. Along with the instructional practices that have been implemented through the ELA professional development, technology skills and activities to enhance the curriculum are
being developed. While students have learned technology skills within the technology classroom, this will be an excellent opportunity to develop those skills further as they are integrated with the content area. Teachers are currently using Google Apps for Education for their own productivity and are applying what they have learned to student activities.

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

Highlights:

1. Chicks Basketball: The Chicks are up and rolling on their season having just finished their first trip to the Belton Sonic Shootout. The varsity team took 3rd in the tournament with wins over Raytown South and Center high schools. Say hello to our new C Team coach, Mrs. Sarah Keys, if you get a chance.

2. Rooster Basketball: The boys are looking strong this year with a tough schedule ahead. They opened the season with a victory at Butler and fought hard in a contest with Ray-Pec High School in a loss last Friday evening. There is a new 9th grade coach for the program. Say hello to Mr. Andrew Schoenherr when you get the opportunity.

3. Rooster Wrestling: The guys are excited to be getting things under way this winter. They just closed out the annual Steve Leslie Invitational with a 3rd place finish behind Smithville and Lee’s Summit West. The Roosters had 4 champions on the day as Kolin Rogers, Tommy Williams, Olen Brattin and Gaige Brunell win their respective weight classes! They will travel to Sedalia on Tuesday and Blue Springs South the following Tuesday. They look forward to the Harrisonville Holiday Classic on December 19th & 20th.

4. Speech & Debate: S&D are working hard to represent Pleasant Hill in a successful fashion and have been successful in doing so. They will travel to Lee’s Summit on Dec. 13th to round out 2014. They have many opportunities to perform as they welcome the second half of their winter season in January. More details to come!

Be sure to check out @PHHSactivities on twitter to follow your favorite teams!

The winter season is upon us! Let's keep that Pleasant Hill spirit strong with good representation at our sporting events and activities. We do this for the kids! Professionalism and class at all times will ensure our presentation is first class!