PRIMARY SCHOOL

In the midst of all our fun Spirit Week activities, learning has been in high gear at the Primary School. Kindergarteners are writing, using iPads to make videos describing their projects, and making observations and collecting data during their Johnny Appleseed celebrations. First graders and second graders are working on math fact fluency and reading, reading, reading! Classes are graphing their growing stamina for independent reading every day. We welcomed Mrs. Diederich back to second grade after her maternity leave, our high school cheerleaders for a monthly assembly, our weekly Football Ambassadors, and a clown from the Kelly Miller Circus sponsored by the Optimist Club.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Students are busy researching here at the Elementary Building. Fourth grade classrooms are gathering information about protecting our environment, animal adaptations and endangered animals. Miss Baedke’s fourth graders Skyped with a park ranger at Yellowstone National Park last week to gather first hand information. Our third graders start research today on inventors and exotic pets. As a building, all the students completed research on the proposed outdoor lab space and submitted their final design plans on October 3rd. We are excited to continue our collaboration with the Eagle Scout who is organizing the project.

The Big 6 Process is used to facilitate all of our research. Those steps are as follows: define the task, identify resources to be used, gather resources, take notes, cite sources, use information to create a product and evaluate the process/product. Researching with the Big 6 Process integrates several of the high yield skills that we want our students to use. Students are asking questions, reading critically to find answers, citing textual evidence, summarizing, taking notes, paraphrasing, using technology, organizing information,
collaborating with a peer and then choosing a product to display their findings. It is engaging and truly creates a buzz in the building that is exciting to see and feel.

There are several “extra special” things happening this week at the ES. On Tuesday, October 7th, our fourth graders, under the direction of Mrs. Ebony Shaffer, will perform a vocal concert for parents. The students have been practicing their “work song” themed program since the start of school. The concert will be held in the PAC at the High School at 7:00pm. Jump Rope for Heart is underway with Mrs. Reeves in PE and the Big Smiles Dental program will be visiting the ES on Wednesday to meet the needs of some of our students.

You might recall that last spring, our building applied for the Crayola Grant which provides our school with $2500.00 in grant funds along with $1000.00 worth of Crayola products. Last week we received this exciting communication from Crayola. “Champion Creatively Alive Children Grant Program Finalist Congratulations! Your school has been selected as a Finalist in the 2014-2015 Champion Creatively Alive Children (CCAC) Grant Program. Selected schools move from Finalist to Winner status once the required paperwork is returned to us.” Our school has submitted all of the required paperwork and so we are awaiting the official word from Crayola that we have been awarded the grant! This grant will help us continue infusing art and creativity into all aspects of the learning experience for students and supports our “Dreams Under Construction” theme in which students are creators and curators of their own learning.

**INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL**

“Students of the Week” are: Brooklyn Chambers, Aubrey Scott, Madison Woods, Carson Driver, Emmalee Thaller and Aidan Parmen. We congratulate these students for their outstanding character and deeds. We have also started “Students of the Month”. Students of the month are nominated and selected by their peers during homeroom; it is an honor to receive this award as well! Respect is the focus of the October nominations. The following students are recognized for being extremely respectful: Michael Collins, McKayla Christopher, Malorie Hubert, Dylan DiMarco, Grace McKee, Kylie Lloyd, Nelson DesCombes, Evan Miller, Abby Teitlebaum, Isabelle Proudfit, Averie Snyder, Owen Bailey, Cole Jones and Barrett Darrah. We congratulate these students as well.

The Lion’s Club provided hearing screenings to our 5th grade students on September 29 and 30. We appreciate their time and effort in
providing this service. Students took a break from their PE lesson in order to participate in the screening. We appreciate Mr. Adamczyk, our PE teacher, for assisting and supporting this. We also thank nurses Lora Watson and Annie Vaughn for the work they did organizing and assisting with it.

SPIRIT WEEK:
PHIS has had a great spirit week! Students and staff have enjoyed dressing each day; many have been creative and dynamic in their attire. We support and celebrate our Roosters!

Our Positive School Climate Committee/Friends of Rachel members wanted to show kindness to others by escorting car riders and guests under umbrellas when it’s raining. They had their first opportunity to do so October 2! The purpose of this club is to ensure a positive school climate throughout the school by planning fun activities and partnering with Rachel’s Challenge. Students will be involved in planning activities throughout the school year to encourage students to live a life of purpose and do simple acts of kindness for others in our building. They plan activities around the holidays and educationally observed events such as: American Education Week, Teacher Appreciation Week and Mix It Up Lunch Day. This committee is sponsored by Mrs. Diane Williamson, Mrs. Jody Griffith, Mr. Josh Adamczyk and Mrs. Jane Bermel.
MIDDLE SCHOOL

PHMS Student Council Homecoming Spirit Festivities....

Student Council News... The student body has voted and we have our new officers and representatives for the 2014-2015 school year. Student Council President is Maddie Phipps and Vice-President is Jayden Reyes. Representatives are Cydney Metzger and Joey Mazy-Franks for eighth grade and Audrey Mann, Christina Morris, Dawson Sivils, and Nicole South for seventh grade. We hit the ground running this past week with our Homecoming spirit week. Students and staff really enjoyed the festivities and planned activities! First on our meeting menu is our part in the pep assembly on Friday for homecoming. We will be planning some great activities to celebrate the Roosters and introduce our middle school sports teams. This Friday, October 10 is our first dance, so there are posters to be made and a gym to be decorated for the fun! We meet the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7am in room 121 and have additional meetings as needed. Our president and vice-president are also members of BIT (Building Improvement Team) to add a student voice to what is happening at Pleasant Hill Middle School.

PE News... Pleasant Hill middle school physical education students have set personal short and long term goals. Based on their goals, students have created personal workout plans to achieve these goals. The first 20 minutes of class is dedicated to their individualized workouts. Recently, we have been enjoying outdoor games such as frisbee and football. This week depending on weather, we will play ragball (a version of baseball) and then transition to our DANCE unit to prepare for our first school dance! "I play chicken with the train...train...chicken with the..."

HIGH SCHOOL

Pleasant Hill High School will host the Academic Letter Assembly. This will be the twenty-eighth annual ceremony to recognize our students that excel in the classroom. To be eligible for an academic letter, students must maintain a 3.5 GPA while enrolled in a minimum of six graded classes. This event is one of the highlights of the school year as we welcome back a distinguished alumnus to address the students. This year Zach Patterson, DVM will speak to the students about the value of setting goals, hard work, and determination. We will recognize 172 students on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 for their outstanding achievement in the classroom.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Administration is working on completing the required Core Data and the FER for Early Childhood Special Education. The Process Coordinators are currently working on 14 initial and triennial evaluations.
The Youth Mental Health First Aid course was presented on Tuesday September 30th. 28 staff members were trained and Officer Bledsoe from the The Pleasant Hill Police joined us as well.

The same First Call trainer presented the QPR class for the community at the First Christian Church on Monday September 29th. 14 people were trained on how to recognize and prevent suicide. Another class may be set up in future.

**High School Language Arts - Mrs. Monath and Mrs. Felden**

We teach Language Arts I and Language Arts II in a Co-teaching setting. This year the Language Arts Department became a 1:1 Google Classroom. This means that while in a Language Arts classroom, each student has access to a Google Chromebook, and we use these Chromebooks regularly for instruction. With the Chromebooks, we are able to easily differentiate instruction for students on an as needed basis.

We have designed a blog that students and parents can access so they can obtain information on assignments, submit assignments electronically, check due dates, and visit Parent Portal to check grades. Recently, we created a Google Classroom, which is an online classroom for students to create and upload assignments. Once an assignment is uploaded, we can grade it, and then students can see their grade and our comments on the assignment.

In order for our students to be successful in the world we live in today, our students must be able to safely and efficiently use technology. The skills that they learn in our classroom will help them to become college and career ready. Please visit us on our blog at monathfeldenla.blogspot.com.

**Primary School**

First graders in Ms. Kay and Mrs. Harrald's class work on sequencing. Partners listened to a story on the iPad and then they had to write about what happened first, next, then, last.

"To help increase reading fluency, Mrs. Harrald and her Coop play sight word bingo."
Elementary School
In Mrs. Lloyd’s classroom, they have been learning about different ecosystems! Their learning objectives are: I CAN describe the basic characteristics of an ecosystem. I CAN explain that an ecosystem is made of living and nonliving parts in an environment that interact with each other.

TECHNOLOGY
One of the exciting opportunities that technology provides for our students is being able to communicate with experts, professionals, and others outside of our district. Last week, Erica Baedke’s Fourth Grade class used Skype to connect with a National Park Service ranger from Yellowstone National Park as part of a study they were doing in class. Prior to meeting the park ranger online, the class had done extensive research on Yellowstone and the ecosystem with the park. They were familiar with the geographic features of the park as well as the wildlife within the area. The students had prepared excellent questions to ask the park ranger as part of their study. Students expressed how much fun they had and how much they learned as a result of this opportunity to speak to an expert.
PLEASANT HILL ACTIVITIES… “IT’S A GREAT DAY TO BE A ROOSTER/CHICK!”

Highlights:

1. What a homecoming week! The Rooster football team scored a victory against the Odessa Bulldogs Friday night 21-19. The atmosphere was outstanding as the student section was phenomenal!

2. BSCR - Boys soccer had a strong performance against Grain Valley on Tuesday night. They have home games Monday vs. Green Ridge and Tuesday vs. Oak Grove and Thursday vs. Harrisonville! Come out and check out the Roosters!

3. Softball had a light week last week as they prepare for the district tournament. They earned a bye as the #1 seed in the first round and will play on Thursday at 5pm at Jennies Stadium in Warrensburg.

4. Girls Golf qualifies two ladies for the sectional golf tournament that was held Monday of this week. We are awaiting results as this is scripted. The participants are Olivia Wooduff and Tiffany Butler.

5. The volleyball team is gearing up for a strong finish to the season. They will be home to Harrisonville on Tuesday and Grain Valley on Thursday. They will be participating in the Grain Valley tournament this coming Saturday! There are great opportunities to come out and support the Chicks this week!

6. A huge shout out to Mrs. Ryerson and the STUCO kids for the fun parade and homecoming week that we enjoyed. A lot of hard work and planning goes into that event and we want to let them know it was greatly appreciated! We’ve heard good things about the dance and spirit week altogether! Nice work!