PRIMARY SCHOOL

Primary School staff and students are celebrating the Royals trip to the World Series, Red Ribbon Week, and the end of first quarter. All of the quarterly progress in achievement and learning is evident in hall displays of student work. Students enjoyed visits from the PH Fire Dept. during Fire Prevention Week. Early Childhood and kindergarten students took field trips to pumpkin patches and wrote about their experiences. 2nd. graders enjoyed math activities during field trips to Paradise Park. Forty-one 1st. grade parents attended Curriculum Night, held to provide information about first grade objectives, programs, materials, and the Missouri Learning Standards. 2nd. grade Curriculum Night will be held Oct. 20. Teachers are learning together as we continue reading Why Gender Matters, meet in groups to revise math curriculum, and put on our “walking shoes” during PD release time to share ideas building-wide. Collaboration is evident from conference room to classrooms, with staff and students.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

First quarter has come to a close with students taking common assessments in all core subjects. Teachers are working during plan time and after school to calibrate the scoring of these common assessments to assure consistency. This Friday, our teachers will divide their day between final preparations for Parent Teacher Conferences and professional development.

Recently, teachers met with Mrs. Herrera to share data and begin identifying those students who would benefit from another layer of support through tutoring. Our tutoring program will begin on November 3rd and will provide support for approximately 35 students in reading and math.

This week we will continue with Jump Rope for Heart in P.E. where students are jumping for a healthy heart, third graders will have their vision checked by Insight Eye Care, we will celebrate Red Ribbon Week and students are launching into new research projects on Veteran’s Day. W will conclude our week by honoring those students who helped read over 27,000 pages in our “Fall into Reading Challenge”.

Pleasant Hill District News
Week of October 20, 2014
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

“Students of the Week” are: Madelyn Davis, Jackson Hunt, Belle Danner, Anna Rogers, Molli Johnson and Alyssa Ziegelbein. We congratulate these students for their outstanding character and deeds.

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.

Our Fall Choral Concert was October 13th which featured the Sixth Grade Select Choir and the PHIS Honor Choir. A variety of songs were sung by both groups. Journal writing is embedded daily into classes; two sixth grade students read their journal entry regarding working together and being part of a music team. The performance ended with a song titled “Peanut Butter Jam” which seemed to be one of the hits of the evening. Congratulations to Mrs. Chandler, our Choir Director, and all our choir students on an outstanding performance!
MIDDLE SCHOOL

The end of the first quarter has arrived, and this week our 7th & 8th grade students and teachers are finishing up practicing and preparing for the hosting of student-led parent/teacher conferences for next Tuesday and Thursday evenings (October 28 & 30) from 4:00pm-8:00pm. For the past several weeks, students have been putting together portfolios of academic work to showcase and define their strengths and weaknesses for each course that they are taking this semester.

We continue to choose this type of parent/student/teacher conference format at the middle school level (7th year of implementation) because this style allows each student to play an important role in acknowledging his/her education responsibilities. Each student has been given instruction, along with daily encouragement and time to prepare his/her portfolio under the guidance of his/her teachers. Students have been responsible for organizing their portfolios with two pieces of choice work from every class, doing a self-assessment, along with a teacher assessed behavior sheet, and creating an action plan for academic growth and success. This “project” culminates next week as students “present & discuss” their portfolios with their parents and teachers and review first quarter grades.

Costume Day Fundraiser. Middle School students can pay $1 and wear their favorite costume to school on October 29th. The contest will have the following categories and prizes will be given:
• Most creative
• Funniest
• Best pair/group
• Best homemade

We are a bunch of kids at Middle School and we still love to dress up and eat treats. This is a great day for your student to bring treats to share with their advisory class.
Social Studies News…This week in 8th grade social studies we continued with our non-negotiables by completing a close read over an entertaining article about the Salem witch trials while discussing the development of the New England colonies. Students will also be discussing the development of the Southern colonies and reading the book *To Be a Slave*. The book is a collection of stories from actual slaves and organized in letters from the slaves with the occasional explanation from the author. Throughout the book, students will be given several opportunities to reflect and write about the stories in an effort to gain a true understanding of this very sad time in our history.

“History is not just facts and events. History is also the pain in the heart, and we repeat history until we are able to make another.”-- Julius Lester, author of *To Be a Slave*

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Pleasant Hill High School will host one of two TrackMaker assemblies on Tuesday, October 21, 2014. This assembly will recognize our students for their achievement on the Missouri Assessment Program, End of Course Exam, and outstanding performances on the ACT assessment. Additionally, students that achieved State recognition in spring activities will be recognized. Three Hundred and Thirty-six TrackMaker certificates will be awarded to One Hundred and Seventy students.

Next week, Pleasant Hill High School will host Parent/Teacher Conferences on Monday, October 27th and Thursday, October 30th from 5:00-9:00 PM.

**SPECIAL SERVICES**

From the Office-

We have completed the Final Expenditure Report for ECSE and entered all of the Core Data Information needed. We are still working on referrals and re evaluations. We began meeting once a week to collaborate on referrals but this has turned into twice a week. We also have established a meeting once a week with the referral staff for ECSE. These meetings keep everyone in the loop for each student and allows a more thorough approach. We recently had a monthly meeting with all Sped teachers and Speech/Language Therapists. Staff filled out a, what has went well and what could have gone better, slip to give us feedback on their year so far. We are going over those and using them to guide some decisions in professional development.
We would like to introduce our “Vowel Brothers” to you: Mr. A, Mr. E, Mr. I, Mr. O, and Mr. U. These brothers have chosen to live in separate tanks because they can’t get along. You see, each brother prefers a different sound (short and long a, short and long e…)

We are beginning to learn our short vowel sounds and the brothers are very helpful. We just started learning about the sound that short /a/ makes. Mr. A joined us for each discussion about the sound. Each student in the group was able to interact with Mr. A by giving him the sound. Some people say that he is just moving his fins…but we are confident that he is clapping for our progress!

We completed a project on short /a/ that involved learning about “apples”. First, we read a story about how apples grow, I Am An Apple by Jean Marzollo. This book informed us how to grow an apple.

We sequenced the pictures according to what we read in the book.

Next, we had a “taste test”. Some of the students in our group didn’t even know that apples came in other colors besides red. After our “taste test” we chose which color apples we liked the best. We graphed our results.
We used this graph to answer and discuss many different math and ELA questions. Our group then decided to make a Class Book that we could keep in our “Class Library”. It was titled I Like Apples and we were the authors! We each illustrated our own page!

We also learned from I Am An Apple that you can make applesauce! So, we made “Crock Pot Applesauce”. We worked together mixing the ingredients and stirring throughout the day! We were able to eat some on toast! We were able to take some to our families too! It was delicious!

High School Transition-Carrie Ryerson

Carrie is working with area transition coordinators to set up a Transition Fair for Northern Cass County. This is important for our students transitioning into the workforce. Each year we strive to do more incentives to encourage more participation from Pleasant Hill. The following flyer was sent to all Middle and High School Special Service Students:

Save the Date!
When: Tuesday, November 18th, 2014

What: Transition Fair

Location: Harrisonville High School
1504 E. Elm, Harrisonville MO 64701
Time: 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

The Northern Cass County Special Education Cooperative is excited to invite the families of Belton, Raymore-Peculiar, Midway, Pleasant Hill, and Harrisonville school districts their annual Transition Fair.

Representatives from local and regional agencies specializing in providing services to individuals and families with special needs will be available to give information and answer questions in the Harrisonville High School Multi-purpose Room. Included in those agencies are: Vocational Rehabilitation, Life Care Planning, Pathways Community Behavioral Health, CASCO Area Workshop, Rehabilitation Institute of Kansas City, and The Whole Person, MPACT and many more.

Additionally, there will be breakout sessions for students and families to choose from on specific topics, such as SSI vs SSDI, Financial Planning, College Transition and Vocational Support and Training.

Hope to see you there!

Questions?
Please contact Carrie Ryerson at 816-540-3111 or cryerson@pleasanthillschools.com

TECHNOLOGY

As part of a recent half day of professional development for new teachers, the technology department provided a session on the use of iPads in the classroom. The teachers spent time using apps that are appropriate for a wide range of grade levels and subject areas such as Pic Collage and Skitch. In addition to learning how to use apps, they also learned about “app smashing” with other apps and online resources that can also be used in the classroom. New teachers are able to check out carts of iPads from the Library Media Centers located in each building. The teachers left the session with many new useful tips on iPad settings and classroom uses that they can implement right away.
PLEASANT HILL ACTIVITIES… “IT’S A GREAT DAY TO BE A ROOSTER/CHICK!”

Highlights:

1. SB: The chicks softball team had a great run since the last publication. They won the district title in Warrensburg vs. the Harrisonville Wildcats: 9-2. They travelled to Boonville last Wednesday night and defeated the Lady Pirates in come-from-behind fashion in the sectional game blasting two game tying home runs by Olivia Hessling and Madison Stockstill leading to a 6-5 win and a trip to the quarterfinal at Platte County. This past Saturday the Chicks lost a heartbreaker to the Pirates 6- after pounding their way to a 5-1 lead early in the game. Coach Mickey Fleeman and coach Jason Woodson are to be commended for an outstanding run! The Chicks will graduate a number of seniors this year....they will be missed.

2. Band: The Pride of the Hill finished up their competitions season this past two weeks with performances at Park Hill and the Trenton Missouri Day competitions. It is exciting to see the improvement by this group as the kids and directors have put in many hours of work and rehearsal to perfect the show. We applaud Mr. Twenter and his staff’s efforts this fall. We are looking forward to an exceptional concert season!

3. Football: The Roosters will be traveling to Center High School to take on the Yellow jackets this week in their first district game. Coach Kyle Roach and the Roosters went 2-1 the past three weeks with wins vs. Odessa and Excelsior Springs! The head coach, his staff and the team also received a MSHSAA commendation from the officiating crew for their sportsmanship in the Excelsior Springs game. That is alway good to hear!

4. VB: The Chicks volleyball team completed an undefeated MRVC West conference season this past week with a win vs. Excelsior Springs. Coach Creason and the Chicks head into the district tournament in Clinton this coming Wednesday night as the #1 seed! They will participate in the semi-final match early in the evening hopefully leading to the championship match later in that same evening. Good luck Chicks!!

5. GG: This past week the Chicks girls golf team and Pleasant Hill High School was represented in the state golf tournament by senior Olivia Woodruff. Hard work paid off in the off season for Olivia. She was accompanied at the sectional golf tournament by Tiffany Butler. Great season ladies! The team also took second at the MRVC golf tournament this season.

6. BSCR: Boys soccer will wrap up their season this week with three home events. Monday vs. LaMonte, Tuesday (senior night) vs. Excelsior Springs and Thursday they will finish their game vs. Harrisonville (was suspended previously). Pleasant Hill will be hosting the district soccer tournament with semi-final games being played on Tuesday October 28th (Roosters at 7:30pm) and the Championship game on Thursday October 30th at 6pm.

7. Be sure to check out our weekly radio show on 1030 AM on Wednesday afternoons at 4:20pm or catch them archived on-line at www.soniclockerroom.com; just click on the Roosters icon for this year's shows!

8. Winter athletics: Middle school wrestling will begin on October 27th. All other winter sports will begin on Monday November 3rd.

We appreciate everyone's attendance and support for our programs. Thank you for the positive reflection within our community and at our events. As always.... "It’s a great day to be a Rooster/Chick!"