



An improved connection

From school board member Paul Bloch

As I write this article, the 2017-2018 school year is off and running with mid-quarter grades already posted and parents, teachers and students readying for their parent-teacher meetings in a few weeks. Time truly flies when you are having fun.

My service as a school board member began in April 2000 and has continued, off and on, for five terms since that initial election. During those years our district has undergone some amazing changes with facilities, curriculum and classroom methods changing drastically.

We have seen our buildings updated from structures erected in the 1920's and 1930's with multiple floors and accessibility issues, to modern edifices that welcome anyone including physically challenged and senior individuals. A modern performing arts center, a larger and much improved agricultural building and an amazing football field and softball/baseball complex are perhaps the most visible changes at our high school campus. At our elementary and middle school campuses, we have removed most physical barriers to access with elimination of multiple floors and erratic flights of stairs, providing bet-

ter continuity for our students and staff as they move through their buildings during the school day.

Curriculum is a moving target and coordinating text books and syllabuses between grades and buildings remains a challenge. That challenge continues to be addressed by our administrative team, and we are experiencing an improved connection between our campuses as students transition from the middle school to the high school environment.

Perhaps one *continued on page 4*

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Elementary - October 24 & 28, by appointment in teachers' rooms

Middle School - October 3 & 26, in CMS gym

High School - October 3 & 26, in CHS commons & gym

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October		26 2nd Grade walk to Mayor's Office Golf Districts @ Marshall JV/V SB vs Osage SENIOR NIGHT 9JV/V VB vs Versailles	27	28 JV/V SB vs Hallsville JV/V VB @ Mexico 7/8 FB vs Versailles 7/8 VB @ SoBoCo	29 Senior Night Var FB vs SoBoCo Mini-cheer Performance @ halftime	30 8th VB Tourny @ JC MS/JV/V XC @ JC
1 FFA BBQ 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m @ CHS Commons	2 Golf Sectionals @ Redfield 9JV/V FB vs SoBoCo JV/V SB @ New Bloomfield 7/8 VB @ Osage CES PTO meeting in cafeteria @ 6:30 p.m.	3 Middle/High School Parent-Teacher Conferences 4-8 p.m. 9JV/V VB @ Fatima	4 ES Muffins with Moms 7:00 a.m. FFA Area Greenhand Conference @ Eldon ACT Workshop (English/Reading) 5:45 p.m.	5 HS Picture Retakes District Ag. Grasslands Contest 9JV/V VB vs Osage 7/8 FB vs Osage 7/8 VB vs Versailles	6 2nd Grade Bridal Cave field trip Var FB @ BO	7 CMU Band Day @ Fayette Var VB Tourny @ Versailles
Softball Districts @ California						
8	9 No School (Teacher Professional Development) 9JV/V VB vs Smith Cotton SENIOR NIGHT 7/8 VB @ Tipton 9JV/V FB vs Blair Oaks	10 JV/V VB @ Hallsville 7/8 FB @ Southern Boone	11 ES Donuts With Dad's 7:00 a.m. SB Sectionals ACT Workshop (Math/Science Reasoning) 5:45 p.m.	12 ES Picture Retake ES Firetruck visit MS/JV/V XC @ Eldon 7/8 VB vs Laura Speed Elliot FFA mtg/hayride	13 Kindergarten Fischer Farms field trip 1st Grade Peach Tree Farm field trip Var FB @ Osage PTO Movie Night in the gym at 6:30 p.m.	14 District Choir @ Oak Grove SB Quarterfinals
Girls State Golf @ New Bloomfield						
15	16	17 HS Career Day	18 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. in CHS Library College Fair 6:00-8:00 p.m. in CHS Gym Finacial Aid Night 6:30 p.m. in CPAC	19 State Grasslands Contest	20 6th Grade St. Louis Zoo field trip	21 PTO Tough Pumpkin Run 9:00 a.m. @ Old Riley Field Volleyball Sectionals JV/V XC vs Fatima
Volleyball District Tournament @ Marshall						
Softball State Championship						
22	23	24 Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences 4-8 p.m.	25 MS Picture Retake	26 District-wide Parent-Teacher Conferences 4-8 p.m. FAFSA Frenzy @ CHS	27 No School	28 Band MSU Homecoming @ Springfield XC District @ Hermitage ACT 7:30 a.m.
National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN						
29	30 Trick-or-Treat on Pinto Street 6-8 p.m. @ CHS District Stu-Co @ Troy-Buchanan School	31	1 Area FFA Fall Speaking Contest @ Jamestown ACT Workshop (English/Reading) 5:45 p.m.	2	3	4 All-District Band Auditions @ Warrensburg XC State @ Oak Hills Golf-JC

Volunteerism makes for successful tournament

by Trinity Bays

California Elementary's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) hosts many fundraisers throughout the year, but their golf tournament is one of their biggest.

"This tournament is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year! Due to the incredible generosity of our donors, sponsors, and teams, we were able to raise over \$3,000!" said Ronessa Gunnerson PTO President.

In total, they had twenty teams participate in the golf tournament with three people per team. All money goes straight back into the classrooms and playground improvements for the students.

It is \$150 for teams to enter the tournament. Businesses donate bottled water and items for the concession stand. The PTO accepts donations of both cash and supplies.

"It is because of the generosity of donors that this event is as successful as it is!" said Gunnerson.

The golf tournament started when a member suggested it a few years ago,

and they have continued to do it because of how successful it has been. It is held at the California Country Club the Saturday after Labor Day.

Anyone who wants to volunteer with the golf tournament can. PTO members, teachers, staff, and community members all participate. Volunteering consists of planning, organizing, setting up, and helping run the actual tournament.

They also welcome everyone to join PTO, which make many events possible. Meeting dates are posted on their Facebook page.

Gunnerson said "We welcome anyone who wants to be a part of PTO!"



At their monthly meeting, Ronessa Gunnerson, PTO president, leads discussion about the upcoming activities, in particular the PTO movie night. (photo by Tyler Ford)

Technology curriculum supports district mission

by Jessa Kinchens and Trinity Bays

"It is the mission of the Moniteau County R-1 Schools to equip our students to be . . . knowledgeable of business and technology for future challenges and the 21st century." This part of the mission statement is addressed as soon as students enroll in kindergarten.

Taught by Stacy Allee, the CES computer classes follow a well-ranged curriculum. The two most important standards set by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) are keyboarding and internet safety.

"We meet all of the Missouri Learning Standards and go well beyond. As fast as the world of technology changes, it is difficult for the state and federal standards to keep up," said Gary Baker, principal. "Thanks to Mrs. Allee, we are always adding to our curriculum so that our students will be prepared for the world of tomorrow."

The students at CES learn research and Google formats such as docs, sheets, etc., but the main thing they learn is proper keyboarding. Allee does not require students to practice typing at home, but she hopes students continue to practice as it is an important skill in life.



Stacy Allee oversees second graders who listen to informative videos and play games that help them learn typing skills. (photo by Trinity Bays)

Kindergarten through second grade are taught keyboarding programs and digital citizenship each and every week. First and second graders are taught how to make digital folders, save projects to those folders, and retrieve their projects to add a document or a slideshow.

As they get older, students begin to learn more advanced skills. Third, fourth, and fifth graders practice keyboarding programs and digital citizenship as well, but they also learn to use Google Suite for Education.

Websites such as DigitalPassport, TypingClub, Tynker, and Code.org add to the experience. Some of the technology used includes Smartboard, Dash and Dot, and robots for simple coding. They also use interactive boards, document cameras, chromebooks, laptops, and I pads.

The goal of California Elementary School is to set students on the path to become college and/or career ready.

Baker said, "There is not a profession today that does not utilize technology in one form or another."

In my room . . . 5th Grade, Mrs. Amy Higgins

Memorizing states, capitals

by Jackie Hibdon

Mrs. Amy Higgins' fifth grade class is currently learning about the states and capitals. In previous years teachers have been required to teach the states in fifth grade, but this year Missouri Learning Standards has added capital cities of each state.

The students will become proficient in identifying the location of each of the fifty states and their names. Learning new things can always be difficult, but Higgins enjoys teaching the subject.

"I enjoy teaching social studies and it's fun to teach songs, strategies, and games that help the students memorize the states and capitals," said Higgins.

Even though



Fifth graders Brittney Leyva and Rebekah English use flashcards to study the states and capitals.

teachers are required to teach this subject, Higgins said, "There really isn't anything I'd change. I try to make it fun and offer a variety of strategies for the students to use to learn the information."

Lance Clevenger, a student in Higgins's class said although social studies comes easy and interests him, remembering the states and its capitals can be difficult at times due to the fact that there are fifty of them.

At school he likes to play games to help him practice. He enjoys the game on his chromebook where he has to drag the state to its correct spot on a map. Studying the states and capitals by using flashcards and having his grandma quiz him have also been a nightly routine of Clevenger's.

He said, "My grandma will tell me a state, and I will write down the name of it and its capital. Then she checks to see if I spelled them right and if I got the right capital."



Sylvia Thompson and Lance Clevenger study their states and capitals together on their chromebooks.

PTO Tough Pumpkin Run



Old Riley Field
Saturday, Oct. 21, 9:00 a.m.

Muffins with Moms



Wednesday, Oct. 4

Donuts with Dads



Wednesday, Oct. 11

doors open at 7:00 a.m.

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In my room . . . Eighth Grade English, Mrs. Elliott

Learning the writing process
by Dakota Henry

In Mrs. Amy Elliott's eighth grade writing class, students have been learning the writing process. Elliott starts this lesson out by brainstorming for ideas, which is the first trait the students master out of many.

The writing process is a big concept that covers more than one skill. It also includes research, how to cite, and using supporting details. One skill of writing could take one or two weeks to finish, depending on how well the kids grasp each skill.

The way Elliot has taught this lesson over the years has changed dramatically. She used to teach it in one whole chunk. Now she breaks everything down, one step at a time, so it's easier for students to grasp.

Each student reacts differently to this lesson. Some kids can catch on really quickly while some need a little more practice. Elliott makes sure all the students are comfortable with each skill of writing before moving on to the next step.



While students work independently, Mrs. Elliott makes her way around the room to help students on an individual basis.

"The one true way students become better at the writing process is practicing hard," said Elliott.

She takes more of a hands-on approach when teaching kids each skill of writing, going beyond lecture. She also uses the seven good writing traits as a guideline. This helps each student get more experience.

Learning the Writing Process prepares students for future writing.

Elliott said, "learning how to develop ideas for writing, citing, and doing research is something the students will need to know how to do in high school."

Middle school fine arts participate in festival

by Cheyanne Harper

The middle school music department steps into the community each September to share performances at California's Ozark Ham and Turkey Festival.

During the festival multiple activities occur, including performances of the middle school band and choir.

Erika DeMoss, middle school choir director, said, "Anytime I hear my students sing, it is very rewarding."

The choir enjoys the songs that they have practiced since school began late in August. They students have worked extremely hard preparing the performance for this festival.

"It is an outreach to the community and allows the community to see what is going on in the music department in the middle school," said DeMoss.

Middle and high school director Tyler Edwards gave his middle school band students the opportunity to march in the festival parade alongside the high school band. It was on a volunteer basis, but gave them a taste for parade marching. This being his first year at California,

Edwards believes his students have the potential to do extremely well.

"It helps students by giving them an opportunity to perform for a captive audience at the festival and to people who might not hear them play."

Edwards has prepared the voluntary members of the middle school band to march alongside the high school during the parade.

Edwards has plenty to say about his students, especially about all the hard work they have put in.



The California Middle School band continues working hard and gaining confidence after several marched with the high school band in the Ham and Turkey Festival parade. Meanwhile, they prepare for their first public performance: the winter concert.

(photo by Dakota Henry)

This newsletter is a product of the CHS Print Media class taught by Mrs. Christy Heimericks. *Pinto Connection* staff: Trinity Bays, Tyler Ford, Gracie George, Chey Harper, Dakota Henry, Jackie Hibdon, Kyle Hofstetter, Rose Innes, Paige Johnson, Jessa Kinchens, Turner Myers, Peyton Peters, Abby Porter, Marni Smith, Annastyn Trimble, Jocelyn Wells
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Printed by Central Missouri Newspapers, Inc, Jefferson City, MO
online archives: www.californiak12.org



Volleyball: setting goals

photos by Abby Porter

As volleyball approaches mid-season, the middle school squad boasts a winning record. Both the seventh and eighth grade have been very successful so far.

Eighth grade is coached by Jennifer Porter who also teaches P.E.

She said this group of girls works very hard and are coachable.

"They are a family. Everyone looks out for each other, and they help each other anytime they can," said Porter.

The team's goal for this season is not about wins or losses. It is about but how much they can improve, like on bump, set, and spike - the basics.

Their fundamentals were truly put to the test Thursday, Sept. 21. As they matched up with Blair Oaks, the Lady Pintos found a strong team who forced the volley. The eighth graders took their first loss.

Coach Porter said, "it is important they work on fundamentals to get ready for high school. We are always working on ways to improve."

The middle school volleyball season continues into October.

Above: As the starting lineup is called to the court, teammates make a show of support. Left: Rylee Hees pulls back to drill another serve across the net.



Trick-or-Treat
on
Pinto Street



Monday, October 30
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

CHS Commons



Cost: Minimum of One Canned Good

In my room . . . Band, Mr. Tyler Edwards

Band prepares for live performances

by Tyler Ford

In My Band Room, band is held every day during first period. In these fall months, they practice for competitions and halftime shows. The band teacher Mr. Tyler Edwards is assisted by Ms. Erika DeMoss, and Mrs. Annette Forsythe, Color Guard sponsor.

Mr. Edwards said, "I'm in charge of the registration for events and competitions and plan the music performances for the band."

Mr. Edwards has been in the band industry with schools for 10 years. Prior to CHS, he taught at Liberty, Crest Ridge, Pilot Grove, Hickman, and Rock Bridge.

Throughout the year the band is works very hard to get their performances down perfect! The Pinto Pride Marching Band is under the direction of drum majors Trevor Gerling, senior, and Dalton Arnold, junior.

"It takes the students a lot of time to prepare their performances, and lots of energy going into performing for our crowds," said Edwards.

Looking forward, the band has several events on the calendar besides playing under the Friday night lights. They are scheduled to participate in the CMU Band Day and the MSU Homecoming.

And now, we are the pundit

by Christy Heimericks, editor in chief

It doesn't seem that long ago that our teacher-led technology team headed out to other schools to learn more about this rumored 1-to-huh? computer thing.

After many school visits, technology conferences, and team discussions; they caught a vision that surged through our entire district, inside and outside the school walls. It was the support of administration, school board, and generous community members that kept the spirit going.

Fatima School District stopped by for a visit to learn more about our journey to becoming 1:1 with technology. This is the second time that we have held this type of presentation. The last time it was Blair Oaks that visited. Tipton sent their staff to our technology PD day at the start of the year.

Superintendent Dwight Sanders said, "It is awesome to be a 'go-to' district that other districts are working to emulate."

I agree with Mr. Sanders. We are doing great things at California, and our success is because of the hard work and dedication put in daily. I'm shamelessly proud of us!!!

Connection

cont. from pg 1

of the most exciting changes is how information is being delivered to our high school, middle school, and fourth and fifth grade students. The traditional textbook is taking its place next to buggy whips and landline phones as our students are now using Chromebooks for their daily lessons. These computers enable students to complete and deliver their homework electronically. Gone are the days when the dog can be blamed for eating your homework!

It is an exciting time to be involved with the Moniteau County R-1 School District. Over the years, our taxpayers have responded to requests to fund many improvements to our campuses. New buildings, improved athletic and fine arts venues, more efficient energy delivery systems, and improvements to our technology grid are all the result of financing made possible by bond issues that have been supported by the voters in our district. We have much to be proud of in our school system and it is truly a great time to be a Pinto!

Sending schools come to California

by Gracie George, Jackie Hibdon, and Cheyanne Harper

A number of students that attend California High School have come from the sending schools of Moniteau County. These include Latham, High Point, and Clarksburg.

Students from sending schools have the choice of their high school, which is primarily based on personal preference of the student and their parents. However, their address determines their options.

Clarksburg can choose from California or Tipton. Latham can choose from California, Tipton, or Versailles. High Point can choose from California, Eldon or Russellville.

"I also think family tradition has a lot to do with the decision...once a Pinto, always a Pinto!" said Dwight Sanders, superintendent.

Freshman Jackson Rutledge, from High Point, chose California mainly because his parents, James and Tiffany (Porter) Rutledge, were alumni of California High School. He had friends already attending school here, which was another reason this was his first option.

"I like the sports program in California, and I have already made a lot of

friends," said Rutledge.

He got to tour his other options (Eldon and Russellville), but unfortunately nothing stood out to him.

Rutledge's advice to students trying to make their decision is "Don't stress. It's not as bad as you think."

Each year many students choose California for their high school, 35 on average. There is no cap on sending school student enrollment, but the highest ever entered is 46 students in the 2010-2011 school year.



Freshmen Kylee Gunnerson (in black), who previously attended Latham R-5, and Elizabeth Calton (in blue), who attended Clarksburg C-11, are now among one of the largest freshman classes that California High School has seen. (photo by Jackie Hibdon)

This year Clarksburg had the most enrollment with 16 students. Latham then had 14 students followed by High Point's 11.

Students get tours of all high school options during the Spring. At California, it is led by two students who came from sending schools themselves, which helps the new students feel more comfortable with their transfer to the school.

Many advantages come with sending school students.

Counselor Whitney Toosley said, "Every year we add new students who bring a variety of talents and skills to CHS!"

FFA BARBECUE
 Sunday, Oct. 1
 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 High School Cafeteria
 \$10 for adults

FAFSA FRENZY
 Thursday, Oct. 26
 CHS Commons
 4:00-8:00 p.m.
GET FREE HELP COMPLETING THE FAFSA!

www.FAFSA.gov

Senior Night

-Football- Friday, Sept. 29 vs. Southern Boone	-Volleyball- Monday, Oct. 9 vs. Smith Cotton
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Seniors and their parents will be recognized for their commitment to California High School