



From Curriculum, Assessment and Technology Coordinator Darci McFail



Darci McFail joined the Moniteau County R-1 team in July. The new position includes managing the district website.
photo by Bailey Wehmeir

Hello, Pintos! I am excited about joining the California School District team this year and about the many challenges this new position offers. Missouri is in the midst of rampant changes in education, establishing new standards to which we will teach and new assessments to gauge our success in doing so. All of that can be an article for another day! For now, I’d like to focus on technology and the changes we are currently implementing.

We have tremendous opportunities through technology: opportunities to learn and explore information in ways never before possible, opportunities to improve communication, opportunities to become more organized and efficient, and opportunities to prepare students for 21st century occupations. You may know that a roadmap is in place to provide each student at our high school with a personal device beginning next fall. More information about that program will come in spring. For now, I’d like to share how technology will be used to improve communication.

As we move forward, we plan to utilize four mass communication tools to keep you informed of school events.



1. CrisisGo: This app is a very important addition to our technology tool belt. We will use CrisisGo to push out urgent notices such as school closure or other incidents that need immediate attention. It will be necessary for you

to download the app to receive these emergency alerts. It will also be utilized within the district to communicate in emergency situations. Through the app, school employees and community emergency responders will be instantly alerted to a crisis situation, ensuring fast responses. Employees will be given specific information and steps to follow to keep students safe and secure. The district purchased this service through a grant from Missouri’s Center for Educational Safety, and it is free for you to download. It is available on Apple, Android, Mac and PC, but is incompatible with Windows phones.

As a bonus feature, families will be able to set up private Family Circles to keep family members safe. If someone in your Circle experiences a crisis situation, he/she can send a panic alert that will notify everyone in the Circle of his/her predicament and GPS location. Imagine having a flat tire or other emergency and not knowing how to give directions for assistance. With the CrisisGo app, family can easily find you or report your location to responders.



2. Text Alerts: In the past, this tool has been used to communicate all types of information. With the addition of CrisisGo for emergency alerts, we will be able to narrow the use of this mass-texting instrument. Our new provider for this service, School Messenger, will send out automated calls when students are absent from school and when lunch money is needed. In addition, you are invited to OPT-IN for regular *continued on page 2*

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 Agribusiness Academy Apps & National FFA Scholarships Due JV/V Girls BB v. Skyline	2	3	4 JV/V Girls BB v. Eldon	5 CMS Valentine’s Dance 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. in CMS gym	6 ACT 7:00 a.m. JV/V Girls BB @ Helias ES PTO Me & My Special Guy Dance 6:30-8
Varsity Boys Basketball Tournament @ Southern Boone						
7	8 JV/V Girls BB v. Versailles	9 9/JV/V Boys BB @ Warsaw	10 Area FFA State Degree & Proficiency Selection @Versailles	11 Second Grade Concert 7:00 p.m. in CPAC	12 Make up Day - school is in session 9/JV/V Boys BB @ Eldon JV/V Girls BB @ Warsaw	13
14	15 No School (Teacher Professional Development) JV/V Girls BB @ Osage	16 9/JV/V Boys BB v. BO	17 School Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. in CHS Library	18 CMS Spelling Bee 8:10 a.m. in CMS gym 9/JV/V Girls BB v. BO Senior Night 4:30	19 FBLA District Conf. ES Movie Night in the Gym at 6:30 p.m. 9/JV/V Boys BB v. Tipton Courtwarding & Senior Night 5:00	20 FFA Ski Trip
21 Friends of Music BBQ 11:00am-1:30pm in CHS commons	22	23	24	25 5th Grade Concert 7:00 pm in CPAC	26	27 Area FFA Contest @ Eldon
National FFA Week						
Boys and Girls District Basketball Tournament @ Southern Boone						
28 FAFSA Frenzy for graduating seniors and parents 2 p.m. in CHS Library	29	1 ES Kindergarten Informa- tion Night 6:00-7:00 p.m.	2 HS Basketball Sectionals	3	4 HS District Speech Tour- nament @ Camdenton	5 5/6 Honors Choir @ Warrensburg District Speech Tourny @ Camdenton HS Basketball Quarters Tri-County Music Contest @ Osage

In my room . . . Second Grade

by Isaac Wells
photos Seth Stotts

Jennifer Dampf has been teaching for 29 years with 26 of those being at California. Although she has taught Kindergarten through Third grade, currently her second grade class has 19 students.

“My favorite part of teaching is helping a child to feel successful and proud of his or her accomplishments.”

Dampf says her inspiration was her Mom, Karen Stock, who was a teacher for 31 years.

“I spent a lot of time in her classroom, and I think that’s what made me want to be a teacher,” said Dampf. “I also always had a love of children and watching them learn something new.”

The topics she teaches in second grade are reading, math, writing, spelling, grammar, science, and social studies.

Specifically, the students have

studied how a character changes in a story, adjectives, compound words, adding two-digit numbers with regrouping, and writing personal narratives.

This spring the class will go on a field trip to a cave.

“This goes along with our rocks and minerals unit,” said Dampf.



Second graders raise their hands to tell Mrs. Dampf what the adjective is in the sentence on the board.



Nursery Rhyme Day

On Friday, Jan. 15 California Kindergartners entertained parents and visitors with nursery rhyme songs and costumes in the CPAC.



Technology Coordinator

cont. from pg 1

notices about daily events in your schools. If you would like to continue to receive daily announcements via text, please text YES or Y to 67587. OPT-IN information will always be available on our district website. Messenger will also send voice calls to all parents if school is canceled or dismissed early.



3. TeamApp: Coaches will use this app to communicate with team members and parents, as well as any Pintos fan who chooses to add the app. This free app can be used to post practice and game schedules, results, pictures, and notices of last minute changes. To stay looped in to important team updates, please check with the coach for information about how to register. If you aren’t able to use the mobile app, information can also be received from TeamApp by email.



4. www.californiak12.org: This tool will continue as a resource you can turn to for information including the district calendar of events, breakfast and lunch menus, and links to teachers’ class pages, as well as a link to students’ Student Information System (SIS) accounts, where you can check on grades and lunch balances any time. In the summer, we will launch a new platform for our district website that will include a free mobile phone app.

Please, know that our goal is to provide access to any and all information you need, when you need it. By implementing these tools, we hope to reach that goal.

Great Response for Great Cause



by Nick Connell

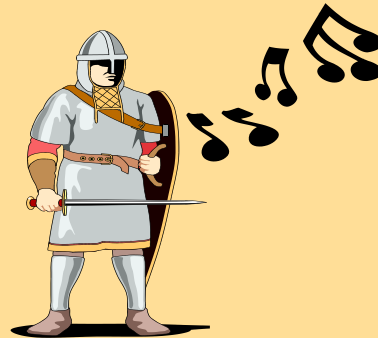
Employees of Burger’s Smokehouse donated over \$1,000 to the elementary school Buddy Pack program. This was not the company giving a donation, but the employees having kind hearts.

The Buddy Pack program is a volunteer system coordinated by the local food bank. Buddy Packs are backpacks filled with nutritious food that students take home over the weekend or holiday periods to support their meals when there is not enough for them to eat at home. After the weekend, the kids bring their empty Buddy Pack back to school to be repacked by local volunteers.

The program continues week after week throughout the school year.

This is the third year for the employee donation. The employees at Burger’s Smokehouse each gave an amount as they were able to spare in order to make this generous donation. This year was the biggest amount that they have given so far.

2nd and 5th Grade Musicals



“Once Upon a Lily Pad”

February 11

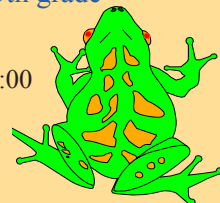
by the 2nd grade

“Joust: A Mighty Medieval Musical”

February 25

by the 5th grade

Performances at 7:00 p.m. in the CPAC, directed by Stacy Friedrich



Me And My
Special Guy
Dance

Feb. 6th @ ES Gym

6:30-8:00

Semi-Formal Dress
Desserts and drinks
will be served



In my room . . . American History with Hal McNeal

by Marysa Spencer
photos by Alexis Sanders

Hal McNeal teaches American History: the beginnings to Reconstruction, which refers to the period of rebuilding the United States following the Civil War.

This course is for eighth graders only.

"We are studying the U.S Constitution and the Federal Government and how it deals with us," McNeal said.

Before Christmas break, they did a presidential election project. To start the spring semester, they studied a unit on Citizenship. This entailed what

a good citizen is, and also includes what is on the Citizenship test that allows immigrants from other countries to come into the U.S.

After a study of the test topics, the students took a citizenship test themselves.

Following the citizenship unit is a unit on immigration. Basically, the citizenship test leads into the next chapter which talks of the Alien and Sedition Acts under the presidency of John Adams in 1798.

"We paralleled today and our immigration problems to Adams actually making a law targeting immigrants and the press, charging them with sedi-

tion," said McNeal. "We talk about how this created fines or jail time for the reporters and deportation or jail time for the immigrants."

McNeal attended college at both Southwest Baptist University and Central Missouri State. He has been teaching since 1980, including schools in Richmond, Rich Hill, Fair Grove, Boonville, and currently here in California.

African Library Project



Over 600 books collected so far, along with many donations for the postage.

Keep donating books and funds through the end of February!!

California Students take First-class Trip to Pizza Hut

by Byron Moseley

During the holidays, the middle school students were selling discount cards. These cards, provided by a company called Major Saver, were sold for \$15 and included discounts to local businesses.

California's students have been selling these cards for around five years, earning money for the school and being rewarded for it. Students received gifts, and the amount of discount cards they sold determined the gift received.

For most students, the best gift of all was a first class limousine ride to Pizza Hut during their lunch, which they earned by selling at least 10 cards.

Matt Abernathy, the middle school principal, explains that he believes that the discount cards are almost an expectation from parents and that they really look forward to them.

"Selling these cards helps teach the kids entrepreneurship, responsibility, and accountability," said Abernathy.

With the cards being sold around Thanksgiving and Christmas time, they make a great gift and cash saver. The profit raised from the discount cards goes back to the school for educational improvement.

Mr. Abernathy plans to use the money raised to help improve attendance by rewarding the students who have good attendance, thereby pushing others to strive for good attendance as well.



Before the middle school sales winners were driven to Pizza Hut, the elementary winners were taken in the stretch Hummer provided by Major Saver. They line up anxiously awaiting their ride. photo by Hannah Lehman



Door Decs

by Alexis Sanders

Sixth grade students work together to decorate Mrs. Jane Bishop's door for Deck the Doors, an event hosted by CMS Student Council in December. The theme for this building-wide contest was "Reindeer Games," and the winner of the competition received a donut breakfast for the whole class. The winner turned out to be the class of Mr. Hal McNeal, but everyone who participated had a good time.

Finding Balance

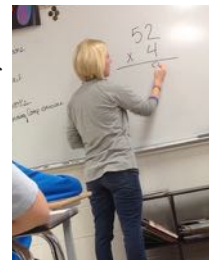
by Alissa Stauffer

Morgan Downing is a special services teacher in her second year at California Middle School. She can also be found taking orders and serving smiles at Burgher Haus, a local restaurant where she has had a job since high school. Having two jobs is common for teachers, but for Downing, it comes with a unique challenge.



"I think the most difficult part of having both jobs is finding that balance of professionalism. I have to be able to relate with the kids I work with at Burgher Haus, but also maintain respect since my main job is teaching in this school district," said Downing.

Downing works at school all day and then goes straight to Burgher Haus two or three times a week.



Middle School Valentine's Dance



Where: CMS Gym
When: February 5th
3:30-5:30
Cost: \$5 at the door
Grades 6th-8th

This newsletter is a product of the CHS Print Media class taught by Mrs. Christy Heimericks.

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Library Adjusts to Technology Take Over

by Bailey Wehmeir
photo by Kelly Sommerer



Janet Henley, the librarian at California High School, has been working in the school library for seven years. Over the past few years, she has seen some drastic changes in how a school library operates.

One of the biggest changes she has witnessed is that print sources are becoming less relied upon and technology is taking over. In the past, many libraries did not have as much technology and electronics as they do now.

As of today, there are many different ways to check out books and other reading material in our library. Students can check out Nooks, download books

to their own smart devices (phones and tablets), access nonfiction databases and websites through the library web page, or check out an actual book. This variety of availability makes the library open via the Internet 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Henley has noticed that the students still prefer an actual book for reading fiction, but they like databases for research (nonfiction). She says that the library has an abundance of device availability, including laptops and chromebooks. The availability of these electronic mobile devices meets the demands of the 21st century learners in our school.

Because the current trend in our school library is reading books or resources online and on mobile electronic devices, the CHS library now has more chromebooks, laptops, Nooks, and iPads available for students as compared to the past. This trend can be seen in most academic libraries.

Henley said, "The library has more of a commons type feel than the silent library of the past."

Varsity Cheer Squad Work Hard all Year

by Hannah Lehman
photos by Ali Stauffer

The high school cheer squad is deep into their winter season, but being on the team is a year-round commitment.

The 2015-16 squad is made up of seven seniors, four sophomores, and three freshman. With only 14 athletes, they have quite a disadvantage over the larger high school squads.

In cheerleading, having a smaller squad makes it difficult to get the points needed for a competition win.

Tryouts for the squad take place in May the previous year. They must learn a dance, a cheer, and a chant.

Over the summer, they prepare for the football season. As soon as football is over, they learn a whole new routine for basketball.

Like any athletic activity, practice begins with stretches and warm-ups. Then, they practice routines for the upcoming games or competitions.

The cheerleaders attend all varsity

CHS cheerleaders hold up their senior teammate Abigail Forsythe in a stunt while practicing for an upcoming competition.

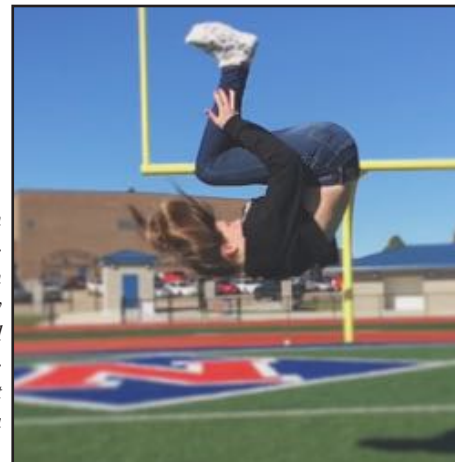


football games as well as all varsity boy basketball games. On some occasions they also cheer at the girls basketball games.

This is the time of year when they prepare a special dance for Court-warming, help host the annual tournament, and try to juggle road trips. Additionally, they are in competi-tions.

Alisha Connell has been the coach for three years. They received third place at a competition in Kansas City in December.

Connell hopes that the current success of the squad will encourage more to try out next year. Half of the squad will graduate, but hopefully California can keep expanding the program.



Freshman Trinity Higgins can really wow a crowd with tumbling that includes a back tuck.

No Easy Task

by Erica Schnirch

These wonderful men and woman do a lot for our school. They are like the skeletal structure that holds everything together. From left to



right are **Rick Whitson**, maintenance, and **Ron Ash**, director of buildings and grounds. They do plumbing, electrical, mowing, construction, outside facilities including the football field and outside trash.

The five high school custodians include **Ruth Rohrbach** and **Debbie Deville** (not pictured **Brandon Klein**, and **Natasha Milligan**). Every day they sweep, vacuum, scrub the floors with the big scrubber, mop, dump building trash, and more. All the while, they are on call when a student or teacher needs assistance.

During basketball season they are very busy. Before the game they put out mats and chairs. After the game they put away the mats and chairs, sweep and mop, and clean the bleachers.

Even when school isn't in session, these men and women are still busy. Every summer furniture is stripped, graffiti is painted over, and gum is removed off of everything. All of the floors are swept, mopped, and waxed.

These people are responsible for all the hard work that keeps the school clean and organized.

In my room . . . Dwight Fitzwater, Woodworking

by Aaron Kendrick

Students create lumber projects in Dwight Fitzwater's Woodworking class. Fitzwater assists every student in the class from start to finish. He said the projects range from dressers to studios and everything in between.



Some students finished before Christmas, but others need until the end of the school year for their more complex work.

Above, Junior Wyatt Hobbs and freshman Drew Eichelberger use clamps and chisels on their projects. At left, Dwight Fitzwater helps sophomore Liam Schatzer square up his poker table before the top goes on.

