

Reed City Middle School Extras “Alive” and Well This Fall by Tim Webster, Principal – Reed City Middle School

We know that hands-on learning experiences are the most stimulating and are remembered the best. We also know that students involved in extra curricular activities achieve better grades and enjoy school more. With those thoughts in mind, we are very excited about the opportunities we offer at Reed City Middle School. The following article is a summary of the different things we are offering this fall.

Mrs. Parsons volunteered to come in and brought real Monarch Butterflies she had raised. She educated our students on the incredible life cycle of Monarch Butterflies. Hanna Nehr, a seventh grader and our yearbook editor, wrote a short article. Her story follows:

Monarch Butterflies: by Hannah Nehr

Mrs. Sandy Parsons came to Reed City Middle School to teach the students about Monarch butterflies.

They learned about caterpillars, predators, migratory patterns, how to determine if the butterfly is male or female, and lots of other stuff.

She also gave them the opportunity to tag and release some of the Monarchs. The tags that go on the butterflies are tiny stickers but still add weight to the delicate wings of the monarch. The tags have to be positioned just right so that it doesn't disrupt the Monarchs' long flight to Mexico.

Our science department is actively using honey bee equipment purchased through a grant from General Mills, Yoplait Division. Students have observed the bees in the classrooms using special observation glass units. Students have also helped harvest nearly nine gallons of honey that will be for sale soon (all proceeds will go back into the program). Learning about bees and using the hives to conduct research is proving to be very interesting for our students.

Other activities that are still alive and well this fall are the Girls' Basketball, Cross Country, Yearbook Club, and Student Council. These positions pay a modest amount to their advisors and offer huge rewards for students.

Student council is wrapping up their one fundraiser for the year and they raised over \$5,000. This money will be used for various school activities intended to enhance the middle school experience for students

Dance/Activity Nights, Electronic Gamers Guild (Video Game Club), and our new Small Business Club are run by staff volunteers and also greatly enrich our middle school students' experiences.

Middle School Small Business Club will be raising money for their end-of-year trips. One of their projects will be stocking the student council-owned vending machine, figuring profit margins, and studying marketing strategies. Some profits will help defray the cost of the overall cost of trips for all students.

All of these activities combined make our middle school a very busy place in the fall.