



School, Sweet School

From Haylee Kiesling, CES Fifth Grader



Haylee Kiesling is the daughter of Andrew and Jamie Kiesling. Her teacher is Mrs. Susan Ferrell. California fifth graders were asked to submit an opening message for this month’s newsletter. Haylee’s was selected, and we thank her for her contribution.

All my life, I’ve went to school at California Elementary School. California is an amazing school with amazing people. It’s filled with kindness, passion, and fun. I hope that after reading this, you’ll understand why I love my school.

The students and staff here at California Elementary are truly astounding. Everyone is so kind and friendly and always makes an effort to cheer you up on your bad days and keep you going on your good ones. If there was one thing you’d notice when it comes to our school, it’s that kindness is everywhere and inconsiderate actions like bullying and teasing would never come to mind of any student.

The second reason I adore my school is that every single student and teacher is full of passion. Teachers help students pursue what they believe in

and students never give up trying to reach their goals. Also, we don’t just have a passion for learning, another passionate thing about our school is that we’re die-hard California Pintos fans! Let’s just make one thing clear, don’t come between a Californian and their Pintos!

The third fascinating supporting reason California Elementary is THE BEST is that we’re not the sit-down-at-an-old-cold-desk-and-do-paper-work-all-day kind of school. I mean, no one wants to do that, and teachers and principals know it! Here at California Elementary, we have amazing things like flexible seating, which, if you didn’t know, means sitting wherever you want in fun things like bean bags, gaming chairs, and other fun things like that. We also have amazing computer websites like Prodigy and IXL, where you can learn, and have fun at the same time!

California Elementary is THE BEST learning experience for any child of any age. The kindness, the passion, the FUN, Why wouldn’t you want to go here! If you can’t see why my school is AWESOME, then I don’t think you read my story right.

Spring Semester

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Elementary - Tuesday, Feb. 13

Middle School - Thursday, Feb. 15

High School - Tuesday, Feb. 27

4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

in the respective buildings



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February		30	31	1 JV/V Girls BB vs Eldon	2	3 PTO Me & My Special Guy Dance Tri-County Honor Band @ Eldon JV/V Girls BB @ Helias Shootout
Varsity Boys Basketball Tournament @ Southern Boone						
4	5 CES PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m. in cafeteria JV/V Girls BB vs Versailles	6 9/JV/V Boys BB vs Warsaw	7 Area FFA State Degree & Proficiency Selection @ Versailles	8 3rd Grade Concert 7:00 p.m. in CPAC JV/V Girls BB @ Warsaw	9 9/JV/V Boys BB @ Eldon MS Spelling Bee in Gym 8:00 a.m.	10 JV/V Boys BB @ Iberia ACT 7:30 a.m.
11 Friends of Music BBQ 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. CHS Commons	12 JV/V Girls BB @ Osage	13 9/JV/V Boys BB vs Blair Oaks Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences 4-8 p.m.	14 ES Valentine’s Parties @ 2:00 p.m.	15 9/JV/V Girls vs Blair Oaks Middle School Parent-Teacher Conferences 4-8 p.m.	16 No School (Teacher Professional Development)	17
18	19 No School President’s Day	20	21 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. in CHS Library	22 2nd Grade Concert 7:00 p.m. in CPAC	23 ES Box Top competition ends 3rd Famous Missourian 1:00 p.m. in Gym ES Movie Night in the Gym at 6:30 p.m.	24 FFA Ag Contest @ Eldon
National FFA Week						
Basketball Districts @ Cole Camp						
25	26	27 ES Six Flags Read to Succeed due today High School Parent-Teacher Conferences 4-8 p.m.	28 Basketball Sectionals	1 ES Spring Pictures	2 Read Across America Day	3 Basketball Quarterfinals

Bulletin boards communicate

by Kyle Hofstetter

One reason bulletin boards are created is to share what goes on in the classroom. Another reason for the boards is to provide a central place for students to find information that can help them with their classroom tasks.

Teachers are in charge of making these bulletin boards and will use their classroom funds to purchase all the material needed to make them. Sometimes they include student artwork, excellent student papers, borders, and other decorations.

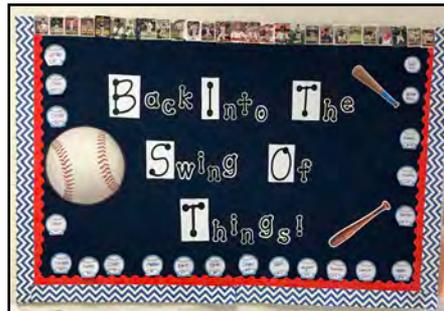


Although bulletin boards provide a great deal of information for teachers and other students, it is not required for every teacher to have one. However, since the students enjoy looking at them, many teachers put one out.

These bulletin boards provide a great place for teachers to showcase student artwork and even the progress being made in the classroom.

From kindergarten to fifth grade, hallway bulletin boards are meant to celebrate students and positivity. Each teacher adds her own flare.

photos by Gracie George



This newsletter is a product of the CHS Mass Media class taught by Mrs. Christy Heimericks. *Pinto Connection* staff: Trinity Bays, Tyler Ford, Gracie George, Nyssa Gonzalez, Chey Harper, Dakota Henry, Jackie Hibdon, Paige Johnson, Jessa Kinchens, Turner Myers, Peyton Peters, Marni Smith, Annastyn Trimble, Jocelyn Wells

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California High School, 1501 W. Buchanan, California, MO 65018 or (573)796-4911
Printed by Central Missouri Newspapers, Inc., Jefferson City, MO
online archives: www.californiak12.org

**Disney:
The Movies,
The Magic**



**A 3rd Grade Show
Thursday, Feb. 8
7:00 p.m.
CPAC**

In my room . . . Mrs. Kirksey guides young readers to the perfect books

by Cheyanne Harper and Nyssa Gonzalez

After many years of teaching elementary, Jill Kirksey is in her first year as the CES librarian. In this class she aspires to help each child find the perfect book and be enthusiastic about learning.

“The ways in which we learn and acquire information is always changing, and choosing to stay current can be a challenge,” said Kirksey.



While reading to her students is important, Kirksey believes in helping them comprehend what they are reading as well.

When it comes to librarianship, Kirksey’s philosophy is to support the classroom curriculum, assisting students and co-workers and helping them learn in any way possible.

Over the summer, locally made book shelves were acquired. The library was given a whole new look and rearranged to accommodate the new shelves.



“The new shelves are much shorter than the old shelves, which makes it easier for younger students to access the materials,” said Kirksey. “Visually we can see around the whole library, a much more child and teacher friendly set up.”



Students use the OPAC system on the computers to locate books in their library.

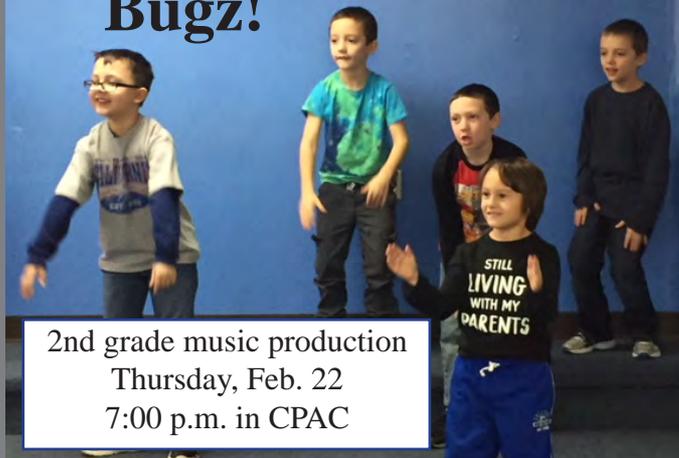
It can be a bit difficult to encourage kids to read more and meet all the students’ different reading levels.

Mrs. Kirksey gives lessons for kids to find their ‘just right book’ and how to do this based on actual words they can read. For older readers, their interests really dictate the types of books they choose.

“I’m always helping kids find a topic they are interested in with the hope they will have a larger desire to read,” said Kirksey. “For the more advanced reader, at times, we have flexed them up to the middle school for higher leveled reading materials.”



Bugz!



**2nd grade music production
Thursday, Feb. 22
7:00 p.m. in CPAC**

Students succeed with homework help

by Gracie George

California Middle School has created a way for students to succeed on school work if they need some extra help. Homework Help is an after school study program where students can get extra help or catch up on assignments.

A handful of teachers host Homework Help including Amelia Elliott, Mona Spayde, Melissa Edwards, Elizabeth Dick, Sandra Radford, and Jennifer Herndon. These teachers alternate supervision.

A variety of students attend Homework Help. Those who take part are students who just want quiet study time, students who are athletes, students who need to catch up, or simply students who need help from teachers. The attendance varies from day to day.

"I've had as few as one student show up and as many as twenty," said Elliott.

Since Homework Help was introduced to the middle school, some improvements have been made. Instead of

having all students from each grade in the same classroom, sixth graders are separated into a different room from the older students.

Sometimes there are many students attending Homework Help, and it can get overwhelming for the teachers, especially if many are having trouble and needing help. An extra teacher may be needed because of the attendance number.

Students are allowed to ask questions and communicate with the teachers if need be, and they have access to everything they need to complete their Homework.

Some students attend on their own free will; however, a teacher can require students to attend if they are falling short in their class work. Students are given Homework Help for their own benefit. They are given extra time and help to complete or catch up on assignments.

"As a teacher, we see it as a valuable tool to helping students reach their full potential," said Elliott.

If a student is assigned but does not

attend Homework Help, alternate dates can be set up. Students could have parent contacts or disciplinary referrals if they do not attend Homework Help when required. Students who are involved in sports are supposed to attend the hour of Homework Help and then report to their practice.

Parents have to know where their child is after school, so the teacher who has assigned the Homework Help must clear things with the parent first. Although discipline problems do not typically arise during Homework Help, the parent may be contacted if there is a behavioral problem.

Elliot said, "It's the same variety you get in any classroom with students being disruptive or off task and needing redirection."

Ms. Michelle Haas, a California Middle School math teacher, uses the Homework Help program for her students and hosts the eighth grade Homework Help session on certain occasions.

Homework Help is an opportunity for students to get homework done with-



Michelle Haas, eighth grade math teacher, helps a student on an assignment during Homework Help, which is held after school four days a week. (photo by Gracie George)

out distractions, to get ahead in some classes, and catch up on missing work. In fact, all eighth grade teachers require their students to attend Homework Help if they have three or more missing assignments.

Ms. Haas said, "A benefit for me as a teacher is that I am getting to know the students in sixth and seventh grade so when they get to my classroom, I already have a relationship with them."

Musical skill and dedication lead to band honors



On Saturday, Jan. 13 seven band students from California Middle School participated in the annual West-Central District Middle School Honor Bands.

Students participating in these bands come from over 35 schools across west-central Missouri and are all in seventh and eighth grades.

The California seventh graders who participated were Kyla Combs (trumpet), Gabby Rohrbach (flute), and Abby Trachsel (alto sax). The California eighth graders were Matthew Abernathy (baritone), Ella Carlyle (trumpet), Alyssa Roney (flute), and Dennin White (trombone).

Students were selected based on their high level of musical skill and contribution to the bands. The Honor Bands practiced all day at Smith-Cotton Junior High in Sedalia starting at 8:30 a.m. with a concert that evening at 5:00 p.m. This was the only day of rehearsal for the groups.

The seventh grade band was led by Elizabeth Puyear, a band director in the Blue Springs School District; and the eighth grade band was led by Mike Steffen, a former band director in the Lee's Summit School District.

California director Tyler Edwards said, "our participating students did an outstanding job with their preparation and performances."



From Left: Abby Trachsel, Matthew Abernathy, Gabby Rohrbach, Dennin White, Kyla Combs, Ella Carlyle, and Alyssa Roney

California support of African libraries is bountiful

The African Library Project (ALP), which was a joint effort between all three California schools, was again a huge success. 1,206 books were shipped to Mariwa Primary School, a school in Kenya, which has 410 students and currently only 20 books.

Four fundraisers netted \$724.80. This paid for shipment of nine boxes of books from the California Post Office, which cost \$150.45. A check for \$250 was sent to the ALP office to ship the books across the ocean to Africa.

Additionally, 750-1000 books were put into storage to be sent to later libraries. The remaining money will ship those books. Then, if any is left over, it will be sent to the ALP.

A huge thanks goes to all who donated books, money, or time.



Moses Bestgen, first grader, makes a book donation at the elementary. At left, high school student council helps middle school student council package the books for shipping.



In my room . . . A revolutionary class

by Marni Smith and Jocelyn Wells

The American Revolution is the current focus of Mrs. Amanda Zbinden's seventh grade American History class. She teaches this unit through classroom discussions, discovery education textbooks, and read alouds.

To strengthen student understand-

Mrs. Zbinden gives Gage Nott tips for his Revolution timeline.

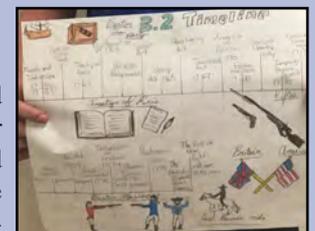
(photos by Marni Smith)



ing, she assigned a timeline poster for the period covering the American Revolutionary War period.

"They were required to have twenty events, five colored pictures that related to the events, and a title," said Zbinden.

Before this unit, they studied America's discovery and the colony development. Next, Zbinden's class will learn about the creation of our government.



Courtwarding: more than just basketball

by Trinity Bays and Jessa Kinchens

CHS Courtwarding is about more than just a basketball game and coronation. It is about school spirit.

High school students participate in many activities throughout the week that the community may not be aware of. Grade levels compete to see who has the most spirit.

To enhance the school atmosphere, classes decorate their hallways, judged by faculty members. The theme for this year was "The Pintos are Timeless," so each grade had a different year theme for their hall. This was judged based on the hallway decoration and a banner, which is moved to the gym for game night.

The dress-up days for the week were different years in history. Wednesday was the 80's, Thursday was the 50's, and Friday was 1776. Both students and teachers have fun participating.



Student council advisor Ashley Atteberry said, "There are many students who get involved with the dress up days, which just spreads good vibes throughout the rest of the student body."

Another competition is Penny Wars. Students bring in pennies to put in a jar for their class. Anything put in the jar other than pennies is subtracted to make a negative score. Student council raised \$102.84 and will use the money to support Special Olympics.

A new addition to the festivities was a powderbuff game, an idea from a student council district meeting. Powderbuff is an intramural boys volleyball game. A select group of boys in each grade competed.

At the end of the school week is a pep assembly. Student council arranged fun activities for students and faculty to participate in. Included are performances from dance squad and cheerleaders, a game to recognize Courtwarding royalty candidates, a game to recognize girls and boys basketball teams, and faculty basketball.

On Saturday night after Courtwarding Friday, student council hosted a Sadie Hawkins dance. Student body president Elizabeth Lutz came up with the idea of having a Sadie Hawkins dance last year. Based on its success, they opted to do it again.

A lot of time goes into planning courtwarding, but not a lot of money. Student council picks the theme for courtwarding during their summer leadership meeting so they will have plenty of time to prepare.

"We actually don't spend too much money," said Atteberry. "The classes can spend up to \$50 on their hallway decorations and then the only other money we spend is on the crowns and flowers for coronation."

Scores for penny wars, hallway decoration, the powderbuff game, and dress up days are added up to see which class is the ultimate winner. The winning class will receive donuts one morning the following week.

President Lutz said, "Courtwarding is nothing without participation."



Courtwarding Royalty Crowned:
King Brett Skinner & Queen Halle Oliver, Prince Trystan Hees & Princess Hailey Cain

In my room . . . Chemistry in 3-D

by Peyton Peters and Dakota Henry

At California High School students are provided with many great opportunities, such as working with 3-D printers.

The 3-D printers were funded with grants. The business department purchased one in the fall of 2017, while the ag department has had theirs since spring of 2016. Mrs. Jamie Johnston's Chemistry II class is now benefiting from these purchases as well.

Johnston said, "We have just finished our biochemistry unit in which we learned about protein structures. Being able to print some of the structure for students [is very beneficial because then they] can visualize them better."

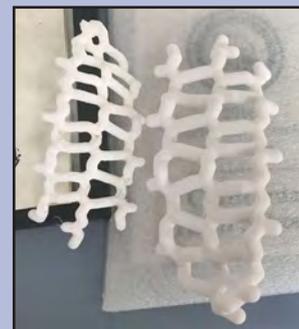
Depending on what is being formed, these models can take hours or a few days to fully form.

"This is a great example how our departments work together to provide student learning opportunities," Johnston believes.

She has future plans for the students to paint these white 3-D printed models of beta sheets and alpha helices, secondary structures of proteins so that each atom type (carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, etc) is color coded.

Chemistry II is a class of seniors. A prerequisite of the course is Chemistry I, which is primarily taken the junior year at CHS.

Currently in the chemistry class there is a lot going on. They will be hosting a science expo on February 1st during one of the high school intervention days. For this, the students have actually picked a variety of demonstrations them-



These white 3-D printed models of protein structures will be used by chemistry students for further study.

selves. Students are welcome to visit the classroom and go through different stations to see exciting science experiments.

Johnston also mentioned that half of this class is planning on starting a dual credit course on January 27th through State Fair Community College. This is the first year this has been an option.

The course is five credit hours. Although it will be challenging, Johnston knows her students will work hard to get it done, and she is always there to help them if they need it. The other half is preparing research projects to present at a science fair this semester.

Johnston said, "we have students researching biosynthesis of



Savanna Qualls and her team melt Laffy Taffy for a chemistry project.

silver nanoparticles as well as production and uses of algae.

"I am always excited to see what research the students are able to produce. They find research in scientific journals and try to reproduce the concepts or try something similar. We have been fortunate to receive several grants to purchase lab equipment in order to be able to use lab techniques such as spectrophotometry, centrifugation and microbiology," said Johnston.

It is important to keep the course up to date. Through these grants, students have the latest technology and knowledge right at their hands.

Friends of Music BBQ

Sunday, February 11th
CHS commons
11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Adults \$10.00
Children (5-12) \$5.00