



Held Harmless Finals

from High School Assistant Principal Tim Beydler

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education through the latest Missouri School Improvement Standards has changed the basis on which school districts are evaluated concerning student attendance.

Rather than an overall percentage of attendance, the new guidelines require that 90% of students attend 90% of the time.

To increase student attendance at the high school, we asked students what incentives would motivate higher attendance. The students suggested several ideas, one of which was held harmless finals. The students asked if we could pilot the program fourth quarter of this school year. The timing was short, but we were able to launch the program this quarter.

Students at the high school may qualify to have their finals count toward their semester grade only if the results of the test raise their semester grade. If the results of the final would lower their semester grade, the score on the final will not be included in the semester grade.

To qualify for this reward, students must be absent no more than one school day (8 class periods) during the fourth quarter. Additionally, they must attend and take their finals, and they must make a good faith effort on those finals.

Every absence will count when determining held harmless status. At the end of the year, the effectiveness of this program will be reviewed and a decision made whether to continue it in the future.

What Happens on a Teacher Professional Development Day?

by Bailey Wehmeir

Every year the California schools have at least seven professional development days throughout the year.

Some of the day is spent in district-wide activities; however, each building has their own goals as well.

As an example of how the PD agenda is formed, we took a look at the elementary building.

The elementary data teams and Principal Daniel Williams plan PD days using a collaborative approach. Teachers can request what to discuss using a staff survey. Williams coordinates these events a year in advance.

Williams strategizes topics first by identifying areas of growth to address; defines what goals to focus on with the staff through a collaborative process, then he researches and pursues avenues to provide resources to

the staff.

Each month there are common focal points that are talked about including data analysis, writing alignment, and inclusion of reading comprehension into daily instruction for students. The elementary staff consults with a specialist from the University of Missouri to provide expertise in these areas.

All faculty and staff are required to attend each meeting and are also required to create individual professional development plans.

Over the years, many initiatives have been implemented using the time provided on professional development days.

“One of my most proud professional accomplishments is the staffs’ implementation of response to intervention,” said Williams.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		29 District Ag Contest @ Warrensburg JV/V BB v. Tipton Var Tri-County Track Meet @ home JV/V Golf @ Osage	30 Var Golf @ Russellville	31 District FFA Contest @ Warrensburg JV/V BB v. South Callaway Var Track Meet @ Linn	1 HS Art Contest @ Warrensburg Mr. Pinto Contest 6:30 p.m. in CPAC	2 Var BB @ Mexico
3	4 Golf @ Fatima California FFA hosts TSA/IRC's @ school and fairgrounds	5 JV/V BB @ Hallsville 9/10 Track @ Osage HS ACT Workshop (Math/Science) 5:45 p.m.	6 Envirothon @ Jeff. City	7 JV/V BB @ Clinton	8 Var BB v. St. Elizabeth	9 MS Music Festival @ Osage PTO Family Carnival ACT 7:00 a.m.
10 FFA Chapter Officer Interviews	11 Golf v. Osage	12 JV/V BB @ Jamestown MS Cafe for Moms Breakfast	13 Boys Golf @ So. Boone ACT Workshop (English/Reading) 5:45 p.m. School Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. in CHS Library	14 Golf @ Fulton JV/V BB v. Osage	15 No School (Teacher Professional Development) HS Track @ Boonville	16 Track Spaghetti Dinner 5-7 p.m. in commons HS Spring Play 7:00 p.m. in CPAC
17 HS Spring Play 2:00 p.m. in CPAC	18 Golf @ Centralia	19 HS Track @ Osage JV/V BB v. Eldon ACT for Juniors HS Spring Concert 7:00 p.m. in CPAC	20 Tri County Conference Golf @ Osage	21 HS Track @ Centralia Golf Quad @ Centralia	22 JV/V BB v. Versailles	23 Prom @ Capital Ritz in Jefferson City
24	25 JV Tri-County Conference Track @ Eldon HS Band Concert in CPAC, time TBA EOC Testing for American Government	26 JV/V BB v. So. Boone HS Track @ CHS FBLA State Contest	27	28 Golf v. Eldon JV/V BB @ Harrisburg HS All-State Band and Choir Contest	29	30 Var BB Tourny @ Centralia
		EOC Testing for English I & II		EOC Testing for Biology & Algebra I		
		3rd-5th Grade MAP Testing		5th Grade Science MAP Testing		
				FFA Convention & Contest @ Columbia		
				Varsity Baseball Tourny @ Calvary Lutheran		
				HS Choir @ Carnegie Hall New York City		

Authentic Learning in Pre-K Classroom



Pre-K is the first exciting step in students' formal educational program. We focus on developing each child's social, emotional, and academic skills. Students are actively engaged in learning to read, write simple stories, develop math skills, and explore.

All students, but especially four and five-year-olds, learn through a variety of instructional methods. Our goal in Pre-K is to provide student-centered authentic learning experiences and provide opportunities for students to learn and play daily.

Another goal is to build relationships with each child and assist them in working up to their fullest potential. We want children to love school, love learning, love themselves, and others.

"We learn and explore through various themes," said Pre-K teacher Teresa Dusenberg.

During our Dr. Seuss theme, we read various Dr. Seuss books and incorporated our learning through this theme. Since Dr. Seuss books contain a great deal of rhyming, it was an opportunity to have fun with rhyming words.

After reading "The Foot Book" students traced their foot and measured its length using objects such as paper clips, snap cubes, and pennies. Students worked on their color words and numbers after hearing "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish." They traced their hand on the colored paper and made fish out of them to create their own Dr. Seuss fish bowl.

Students made Dr. Seuss hats with their names working on patterning. They also made Dr. Seuss hats out of marshmallows, cookies, and red string licorice; food is always a popular learning tool.

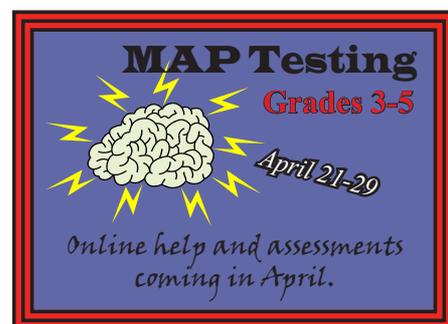
Science was touched on by observing and predicting what would occur when powdered sugar was mixed with water to create icing.



The Dr. Seuss unit concluded with a Read-In where students brought pillows, blankets, and their favorite books from home. We invited guest readers to come to our classroom and read their favorite book to us. We had several relatives of students come, as well as Mrs. Bird, Mr. Williams, and Mrs. Clause.

What we want most of all is for students to leave the Pre-K program having a heads up when they enter kindergarten, loving to learn, loving school, loving themselves and feeling confident in their abilities. "By the many smiles and hugs each day, that seems to be happening. These little ones are what it's all about," said Dusenberg.

The California R-1 Pre-K program is in its third year. This is Dusenberg's 25th year of teaching, but her first year as the Pre-K teacher. Kimberly Scheidt is the para professional in the Pre-K classroom. There are 14 energetic, sweet, loving students in the 2015-2016 Pre-K class. Each and every day is an adventure and a blessing.



In my room . . . Mrs. Angie Butts-Althoff, 5th Grade

by Kelly Sommerer

Teaching math, language arts, reading, social studies, and science Mrs. Angie Butts, finishes up her 13th teaching year. (Her first four years were at Cresthaven Elementary School in Pompano Beach, Florida.) The students really enjoy her class.

"They love my crazy dance moves and when I read aloud to them," she laughs

She says her favorite thing about teaching is, "Getting to know the students and witnessing them finally getting the concept. It's like a lightbulb goes off and their faces light up!"

Currently, the students are creating an object with simple machines that would help them do a certain task.

"My project is called the Dish Slider 4000. It is used to make putting away your dishes easier," said Savannah Smith whose favorite parts of the project were researching and decorating.

Mrs. Butts explains, "They are very excited. This project allows them



to be creative by inventing a machine or tool of their own. It was one of my favorite projects when I was in school."

Students will be graded on the name of the machine, their name on the project, a list of all the materials used, the cost and total of all materials used, labels on drawings of the machine and what it does, the procedure steps, 3 reasons why someone should buy their machine, neatness and effort, and color and attractiveness. If completed and turned in on time, they would receive the full 50 points.

Pioneers for a Day

by Brice Miller

Friday, Feb. 26, the California fourth grade classes had their Pioneer Day, an event held for at least 14 years.

The State Standards require teaching fourth graders about Missouri and the Westward Expansion. The teachers thought they would provide an experience that makes the kids feel like they were really part of the Pioneer Days.

"Students get a hands-on learning experience that a text-book doesn't cover. They see what life was like for a pioneer during westward expansion," said teacher, Kelli Williams.

To replicate the Oregon Trail experience, they walk a mile. Normally, they would have walked outside, but due to the weather, they walked in the gym. This allowed teachers to hand out fate cards relating to hardships the pioneers faced.

Christina Thompson, a student in Mrs. Francis' class said, "My favorite part was walking in the gym. Mr. Baker was throwing jump ropes like they were snakes, and then I stepped on a rock (hula-hoop) and broke my leg [for pretend]."

Camryn Wingate, a student in Miss Bernier's class learned so much. "It

took 4-6 months to get to Oregon. The Pioneers had to save food and not eat as much so it would last longer. They had to make room so the sick people could get in the wagon. They had to pack a lot of food for the oxen. It took about 40 days to get to one of their camps. They had to get rid of things so they could pack certain things."

The teachers' favorite part of the day is always the Pioneer rotations where the kids make butter, play pioneer games, eat Oregon Trail snacks and create crafts like the ones that kept small children busy while on the wagon trains.

"My favorite part was when we made the God's eye," said Dillon Wood, from Mrs. Henley's class. "I like making art because I think it's pretty."



Austin Suen, a student in Miss Bernier's class, makes butter out of heavy whipping cream.

Father's get Their Fill for Breakfast

by Byron Moseley

On Tuesday, March 15, the CMS held their annual "Fixin's for Father's" breakfast. This event has been going on every year since 2012. The cooks take on hungry students and fathers and set a great start to their day.

Principal Matt Abernathy said, "This was the greatest turnout we have had in all of our years."

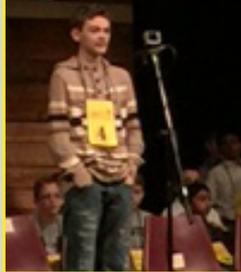
The cooks take the time to come in early and prepare more food than their typical morning. On Tuesday they served biscuits and gravy to roughly 25 hungry dads. Administrators think it's a great opportunity to see student-parent interaction.

This event is held by the At-Risk Committee, co-chaired by Heather Schoeneberg, Andrea John-

son, and Velvia Fortenberry. Their intent is to encourage parents to be involved with their child's school career. Since this is an event that isn't related to homework or sports, it's easier for the students and parents to interact.

Johnson said, "every year there is such a positive atmosphere in the cafeteria during this event. It really sets the tone for a great day."

Regional Bee



Trenton Stevens represented CMS at the Regional Spelling Bee in Columbia, on Tuesday, March 8. He outspelled 25 other champions before missing his word in the fourth round. We are very proud of him.

Middle School Choirs Perform *The Lion King Jr.*

by Hannah Lehman

The sixth grade Music Connections and the seventh and eighth grade Pinto Express members joined together to perform in Disney's *The Lion King Jr.*, by Elton John and Tim Rice.

Ms. Erika DeMoss, the middle school choir director, aided by high school senior Hannah Banderman, conducted and directed. DeMoss selected the *The Lion King Jr.* because she felt this musical would be a great opportunity for the students to work together and they would have fun working on a musical of a movie they watched as a kid.

This was Banderman's first year on set with the middle school group. Being a part of California High School's Sounds Of Joy, she too has participated in many musicals and provided a lot of experience.

"The kids did really well, and they worked hard mostly because this is a movie they grew up watching," said Banderman.

The students' work ethic towards the musical was incredibly strong. The most beneficial aspect of being a part of a mu-

sical is seeing the show come together scene by scene.

"Later, they will appreciate all the time and effort they have put into making a great performance," said DeMoss.

DeMoss said, "there aren't many things more fun than re-enacting a Disney movie. I chose this musical because I thought the students would really like the music and enjoy the process of putting it all together. Their main goal is to give a great performance and I admire that."

To make the musical come alive, Brad Friedrich, the high school art teacher, and his art classes created the sets for each scene. The middle school art club also contributed to the design of costumes and masks.

DeMoss would like to thank each student for their hard work during the process of creating this musical. She would also like to thank Ms. Long, Mr. Friedrich, Mrs. Porter, Mrs. Bilyeu, and a number of parents for their help during rehearsals and throughout the entire process.

In my room . . . Physical Education

by Erica Schnirch

The middle school Physical Education classes are wrapping up units that provide unique physical activity for kids to use in their future.

Mrs. Jennifer Porter is the girl's physical education coach for California Middle School. She has been teaching P.E. for ten years.

Her classes are currently doing an aerobics dance unit. The aerobics dance unit includes Richard Simmons workout videos, Just Dance Wii game,



and choreographing their own dance using an Elvis Presley song.

Mariah Mills, seventh grade, said, "I prefer to choreograph my own dance instead of dancing to Richard Simmons or Just Dance."

Mr. Doug Miller is the boys teacher. Miller has been teaching for 23 years.

The boys classes are currently bowling at California Lanes. They bowl for 20 days (units are about 2 weeks). After the bowling unit, Miller said they will be start archery.

Harrison Green, eighth grader, said, "my most favorite thing in P.E. is the bowling unit because it is fun."

Porter and Miller love working together and with their students. They hope for these kids to continue being healthy and active in the future.



Seventh graders Lauren Hill, Mariah Mills, Maura Pardoe, and Dylann Henley choreograph their own dance to *Blue Suede Shoes* by Elvis Presley.

At left, Coach Miller bowls a game with his students at California Lanes.

African Library Project, a Success

On Monday, March 14, CMS mailed 1,300 books to Edulini Mission Primary School.

This school was started by missionaries and only has seven classrooms with nine teachers. It serves 700 students, most being raised by their grandparents.

Students wear uniforms, are fed two full meals a day, and bring their own firewood to school. These students are very excited to receive our books and will be truly blessed by our community's generosity.

Thanks to everyone for contributing either books or funds for postage!



The ALP Committee

Front: Zoey Rimel, Garret Ferguson, Sydney Nelson, & William Ireland.

Back: Jacob Smith, Bruce Vines, Christian Contre-ras, Hailey Veltrop, and Sponsor Jill Meisenheimer.

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

Pinto Connection staff: Carter Asahl, Adam Burkett, Nick Connell, Amada Garcia, Aaron Kendrick, Hannah Lehman, Brice Miller, Byron Moseley, Renee Roberts, Erica Schnirch, Kelly Sommerer, Marysa Spencer, Alissa Stauffer, Seth Stotts, Bailey Wehmeir, Isaac Wells

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Cafe For Moms

Breakfast for Female Role Models.

California Middle School

April 12 7:30 a.m.

Counseling Department Focus on Student Futures

by Amada Garcia & Renee Roberts

A goal of the CHS counseling department is to guide students toward a career.

In December, they held a career fair during school hours. The event provided all school students the opportunity to talk with professionals from a variety of careers.

Banks, agricultural resources, medical, and even mechanic professionals came to talk to students about their careers. College/career fairs are a high priority of many schools' comprehensive programs.

"I really don't know where I want to go to college yet, but I got to talk to medical field representatives and they gave me information that I needed to know. It really got me started thinking about college, and I thought it was very interesting," said, Gabe Bailey, freshman.

CHS counselors Whitney Toosley and Kim Wilkins would love to have scheduled presentations where kids will be able to sign up for a presentation with a certain career instead of generically to everyone.

They affirmed they will continue



Senior Sophie Brant listens as Becky Lawson and Nicole Dicus, Hawthorn Bank employees and CHS grads, discuss their occupations during the Career Fair last December.

doing these career fairs each year and have more areas represented next year.

Sean Kirksey, high school principal, said, "Every single student that goes to this fair gets impacted from it, and they learn and grow up from it."

In addition to the career fair, the counselors have a classroom lesson in the fall where they help students to identify their interests, explore career options, research colleges, and other topics relating to students' futures.

In the spring, each grade also has a College Connections presentation over various topics such as ACT Prep, Career Fit, Stress Management, and others.

Congratulations

Courtwarding Royalty and Winners

King Ethan Hodges
Queen Ally Meisenheimer
Prince Cole Schlup
Princess Allee Koestner
Class Spirit: Seniors



IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

Performed by the CHS theater department
Ms. Kate Cuba, director

Friday, April 15 at 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 17 at 2:00 p.m.

in the Performing Arts Center (CPAC)

A Pasta Dinner 5:00-7:00, Saturday, April 16
in the commons - CHS Track and Field fundraiser



Academic Team Strives for Success

by Renee Roberts

This year's academic team has been particularly successful, tying for third in conference. Co-captains Morgan Carpenter and Jarod McKee were named All-Conference at the conference meet in February.

Other members include juniors Taylor Jones, Logan Lamm and Damion Kinchens; sophomores Jack Johnston, Caleb Bleich, and Matt Hurl; and freshman Emily Bilyeu.

To be on the academic team, students must be passing all subjects and attend a certain number of practices before the first competition of the year. Other requirements include being knowledgeable, confident, competitive, and interested in learning.

The academic team coach, Clarice Nelson, is particularly proud of this year's team because they complement and support one another, looking at competition as a team effort.

Nelson, academic team coach for 16 years, looks at the team as "a group of young people I am proud to know

and accompany on trips."

She also enjoys "the wide-ranging questions, and I love being surprised by the wealth of knowledge the students possess. It is particularly rewarding to see freshmen and sophomores develop

confidence and knowledge as they reach their junior and senior years of competition."

McKee, thinks of being on the academic team as a great leadership experience to pre-

pare for college and other future opportunities.

The academic team practices every Thursday. In practice, the members split into two teams and play games in actual contest format. The questions at the competitions can cover any subject, but MSHSAA-approved games consist of subjects including history, mathematics, literature, and science.

The academic team's record for the year was six-five. Two of the losses were to powerhouse state champions, Hallsville, and a third loss was to Southern Boone by one point at the very last question of the game.



In my room . . . American Government with Mr. Wilson

by Seth Stotts

On Wednesday, March 9, about 40 juniors in Mr. Ben Wilson's American Government class participated in the fourth annual Moniteau County Government Day, a forum for high school American Government students to learn more about how county government works in Missouri.

Sponsored by the American Legion Edgar Cole Post 304 of Tipton, Government Day took place in California with students from Tipton and Jamestown also participating.

Wilson said, "I enjoy my students getting the opportunity to know what kind of work their county officials do, and how that work affects them personally."

The day started at First Baptist Church with a general assembly. Members of the American Legion presented the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance. After that, Jeanne Edwards explained the history of our National Anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner." All students then said the National Anthem; however, they did not sing it.

American Legion members demonstrated the flag-folding ceremony. After that, Edwards made introductions and explained the history, aims, and purposes of County Government Day.

All county officials gave brief presentations about their jobs and answered student questions. Larry Kay, executive director of the Missouri Veterans Commission, then spoke about helping veterans.

All attendees ate lunch at the church before tours of the courthouse and jail.

"I really enjoyed Government Day. It was a fun experience," said Junior Jerumin Banda. "I didn't realize all of the hard work our county officials do for our community."



Peggy Richardson talks about her job as Associate Circuit Judge.