



Stuck on Reading!!!

From Elementary School Assistant Principal Aaron Shewmake

CES is STUCK on Reading!!!! March 10th we celebrated our statewide read-in day. Our entire educational focus on that day was on literacy and how it affects everything that we do in our lives.

Our building was immersed in literacy all day, reading books in different ways. Some classes had guest readers, others read to each other, and some wore pajamas to read using flashlights.

Some grades brought social studies to life with literacy by listening to a book about each continent. The students made crafts/snacks such as African drums, French biscotti, Chinese fortune cookies, or Australian boomerangs. Students also located the continent they read about on Google maps.

Students in other classes took a “ride in a covered wagon” as they researched the hardships on the

Oregon Trail to finish up their Westward Expansion unit. Great fun was had by all!

To promote literacy growth within our building and our community, we will have a Read-A-Thon from March 10 - 24. We are asking our student body to read outside of school hours. Students will look for sponsors who can pledge a certain amount of money for every minute that they read. Teachers are also looking for classroom sponsors.

The Read-A-Thon will be celebrated on Friday, March 31 with a school-wide assembly. At the assembly, students and staff will earn the opportunity to STICK Mr. Baker and I to the wall! For every \$50 earned or 180 minutes read, students will get a piece of duct tape to help stick us to the wall.

Mr. Baker and I are looking forward to the fun. We just hope that someone will cut us down after the assembly!



Monthly Tech Tip

from Crystal Ashley,
Community/Staff Relations Liaison

Over the summer 2016, we moved to a new district website. If you’ve not already, please take some time to see what has changed. We have added a lot of new and updated resources to our now user-friendly district website.

At the top of the District page, in the Red Navigation bar, is the district calendar. This can be viewed in the agenda format or the calendar view which is a monthly format. To view the facility calendars, check the appropriate box under categories.

Next, in the Red Navigation bar is the staff directory where you can search within our district staff by name, specific building, or coaching position.

The blue navigation bar provides access to different resources within our district. For example: lunch menus, Pinto Connection, bus snow routes, etc. Performing Arts Center (PAC) Calendar and Athletic Calendar are both color coded.

The PAC is organized by building events and the Athletic Calendar is organized by sport. On the right top side of the athletic calendar is a button as shown . Click on it to filter which sports you would like to view.

We hope you enjoy the site.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3 California Invitational TSA CDE JV/V Golf vs Fatima	4 JV Track @ Osage 7/8 Track @ Home JV/V BB vs Hallsville	5 ACT Workshop (English) 5:45 p.m.	6	7 7/8 Track @ Eldon Var BB @ St. Elizabeth	8 ACT MS Musical 7:00 p.m. in CPAC
9 MS Musical 2 p.m. in CPAC FFA Chapter Officer Interviews 2:00 p.m. in CHS Library	10 JV/V Golf vs Osage 7/8/9 2015-16 MAP Reward BBQ @ CMS	11 MS Chromebook Orientation and Parent Meeting 7:00 p.m. in CPAC JV/V BB vs Jamestown	12 District FFA Envirothon in Jefferson City Var Golf @ Eagle Knoll Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. in CHS Library	13 No School Professional Development JV/V Golf vs Fulton JV/V BB @ Osage	14-15 EASTER BREAK	
16-17 EASTER BREAK		18 MS Cafe for Moms 7:15-7:45 a.m. @ CMS 6th Grade Orientation 6:00-8:00 p.m. in CMS 7/8 Track @ Eldon	19 ACT for ALL Juniors Var Track @ Osage	20 5th Grade Concert 7:00 p.m. in CPAC Var Golf @ Old Hawthorne 7/8 Track @ Versailles JV/V Track @ Centralia	21 HS Algebra II (for specified sophomores only) and Government EOC testing JV/V BB @ Versailles	22 Prom @ St. Martins Knights of Columbus Hall
23 Middle School Spring Band Concert 2:00 p.m. in CPAC FFA State Convention	24 JV Tri-County Conference Track @ Eldon 7/8 Track @ Osage FBLA State Convention and Contest	25 Var Guy Rush Memorial Track Meet @ Home JV/V BB vs Southern Boone	26 JV/V Tri-County Golf Tournament @ Osage	27 JV/V Golf @ Eldon MS Track vs South Callaway JV/V BB vs Harrisburg State Music Contest (Solo/Ensemble) @ Mizzou	28 Worlds of Fun Festival of Music, Sounds of Joy	29 Var BB Round Robin @ CHS
FFA State Convention						
HS Algebra I and Biology EOC testing						
ES MAP testing						
30	1 Var District Golf @ Versailles	2 California Kids Talent Show 7:00 p.m. in CPAC Chapter FFA Banquet 6:30 p.m. in CHS commons 7/8 Conference Track @ Osage JV/V BB vs Crocker	3 HS Spring Choral Concert 7:00 p.m. in CPAC	4 Var Tri-County Track @ Eldon JV/V BB vs. Knob Noster	5 Senior's Last Day Var Track @ home ES Lion's Club Track Meet	6
HS English I and English II EOC testing						
Elementary and Middle School MAP testing						

In my room . . . Third Grade Stations with Mrs. Rebecca Leonard

by Katelynn McClelland



Students in Mrs. Leonard's third grade classroom were introduced to new activities. Leonard's class has begun to collaborate with Mrs. Lisa Milligan's fifth grade class. This collaboration is called "Pinto Pals."

"The classes come together and do several activities. Some include

getting to know each other with projects, a memory game, and even building a marshmallow tower together," said Leonard.

When in the classroom on a daily basis, the third graders begin with the whole group together, learning specific subjects.

"In most subjects we do center-based learning. For example reading and math, we start as a whole group and I teach a mini lesson. The students rotate through stations where they do independent work, partner work, computers, and work with the teacher," said Leonard.

Shown above, Mrs. Leonard works

with a reading group while other students rotate through the independent lesson activities such as challenges on the big board.

Recently the third graders have been working on researching and writing about a famous Missourian. Mrs. Leonard said the students really enjoy it.

After researching and writing about the famous Missourian, "students will make a poster displaying their writing piece and other pictures that go along with their person," said Leonard.

In March, they will host a Famous Missourian parade. Dressed as their famous Missourian, the students will parade through the elementary school with their poster.

The Faces of CES: It is hard to be a family if we do not know one another! We could not teach a child or have our doors open without all of our family.



Mrs. JoAnn Bestgen

was born in Washington, Mo and lived in the small town of Marthasville until she was 7 years old. She attended first grade in a three-room country schoolhouse.

Her family then moved to Jefferson City where she spent second through eighth grades in a Catholic school taught only by Irish nuns of Ireland. From there JoAnn attended Jefferson City High School and graduated in 1977.

She graduated from Lincoln University with a degree in Nursing, met a local boy from California named Bernie, fell in love, and married him in 1989.

Together they have three beautiful children: Amanda, Brian and Blake. Aside from school, JoAnn enjoys singing and NASCAR, and "you can usually find me at home down in my woman-cave sewing on a quilt or two or three."

She attends Annunciation Catholic Church and teaches second grade parish school of religion.

JoAnn spent almost 30 years as a nurse either in the hospital or in-home health before coming to the California school district. She has been here five years now.

She tells people, "I don't have just 3 children, I have 650 in my building, and I love every one of them as if they were my own.

"The staff here at this school are great, and it is safe to say that I enjoy getting up every morning and coming to work."

First Grade Rocked 120th Day of School with Counting Celebration

by Nyssa Gonzalez



Wade Moeller hits a rock star pose for the 120th day of first grade!

California first graders celebrated the 120th day of school on March 2nd. This is the fourth year in a row that the first grade class has held this event.

According to Susan Hogan, a first grade teacher at CES, it was

quite a bit of planning.

First grade teacher Kendra Hall said, "We plan the activities starting a little after Christmas and then ask for parents to provide some things, such as snacks," which will be counted into groups of 10 and made into a trail mix type of snack.

The well planned activities were used throughout the day to celebrate, and all of them surrounded the 120th day theme. Most of the classrooms did similar activities.

Hogan said, "We had activities throughout our day that helped us celebrate the 120th day. For instance, the students did counting activities with snack foods such as cheerios, fruit loops, etc. during math time. We conducted writing activities that pertained to the number 120 as well. Students in my class read and wrote 120 sight words."

Hogan also added that the first graders dressed up as rock stars because they have "rocked it to the 120th day."

Jalynn Kiesling writes down a list of 120 words.



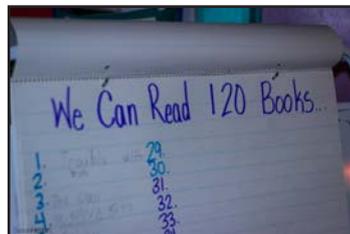
definitely an important, traditional, and eventful day that all the first graders celebrated.

Hogan said, "As part of our first grade math curriculum, students are to count to 120 by the end of the year. All of the first grade teachers as a collective whole came up with the idea several years ago. Now, it has become a tradition that we continue each year with our students."

Many activities have taken place for the celebration. These activities did take



First grade students sorted 120 snacks, listed 120 books, wrote 120 numbers, and more.



The first grade teachers hope to see this tradition for the first grade continue for years to come.

6th Grade Orientation



Tuesday, April 18
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
at CMS

1. Meet the Staff
2. Visit 6th grade classrooms
3. Discuss school policies
 - Dress code
 - Cell phone
 - Chromebooks

Students and parents need to attend the entire time.



Dressed like a rock star, Abby Tiberghien writes down a list of 120 words.

A Kid's Life

5th Grade Concert
directed by Stacy Friedrich

How will grandparents show kids a life without electricity?

Thursday, April 20
High School CPAC
7:00 p.m.



Hardworking Custodians have Job Satisfaction

by Brice Miller

The California R-1 Middle School is a clean and sanitized building all thanks to our wonderful custodians Clara Phipps, Mike Hale, and Clif Sampson. They work hard from when they walk in the building until they walk out to go home.

Each custodian covers one of three shifts throughout the day. The first one is 7:00-10:00 a.m.; the second is 10:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m. and the last shift runs 2:00-10:30 p.m.

The custodians clean the school every day throughout their shift and also try to keep the school safe.

“My favorite part about my job is the satisfaction of doing a job well, but it does get a little difficult trying to keep the school clean and safe for the students and teachers,” said Hale.

Custodians are a presence in the building for 15½ hours each day during the school year. In summer months, they work extra hard to get prepared



Mike Hale, a middle school daytime custodian, cleans up after the first lunch shift.

for the coming school year.

They like to interact with the students when they can but with their busy schedule, it is a little hard for them to do so.

Twenty-three Years after Junior High

by Hunter Carpenter and Brayden Ash

All around Missouri, there are middle schools and junior highs. Here in California, we have a middle school although it used to be called junior high. Other places, such as Tipton and Jamestown, still have a junior high.

For California, the change to middle school occurred in 1994, after the current high school was built.

According to Matt Abernathy, the middle school principal, the differences between a middle school and junior high can be found in the age of students that are taught, and in the courses that are offered. Middle school focuses on content by grade level, while junior high focuses on content by high school fields of study.

“I have always known junior high schools to be seventh and eighth grades only and middle schools to be sixth, seventh, and eighth grades,” said Abernathy.

He does not feel that changing the name would cause a change in the students’ behavior, but the changes that would accompany the switch, such as courses offered or the grade levels attending, would affect the behavior.

Andrea Johnson, sixth grade math teacher, thinks the class structure would



This arch remains as a marker of the former junior high building. It stands in the circle drive between the current middle and elementary schools.

taught by teachers by grade level.”

Traditionally, the purpose of a junior high is to help prepare students for their preferred subject focus; on the other hand, a middle school helps the students learn a little bit of everything while also helping them mature.

“If junior high became just seventh and eighth grades, assistance would be more academic-based rather than transition-based as it is at times with sixth graders. Training is involved in kids becoming “middle school” students versus elementary students,” said Johnson.

Abernathy said, “I like middle schools better because when thinking about what 12- and 13-year-olds need more, I feel it is important that they learn social and emotional skills before focusing on their high school field of study.”

In my room . . . ESOL with Mr. Eric Larimore

by Nyssa Gonzalez

Mr. Larimore helps many students at California Middle School throughout the day, sometimes to simply get through the day. The goal of his class is to improve the students’ English skills and guide them through their classroom.

“The main purpose of my class is for students to improve in English, although that may be in speaking, listening, reading or writing,” said Larimore who provides very individualized attention to each student.

Those that need extra help with homework or want to advance in their English truly benefit from Mr. Larimore’s class.

Larimore said, “I teach classes that are based around what the student needs most. Sometimes that might include math or science as well.

Also, for the the last two years I have taught a class called Cultures. This is a class most of the middle school takes, and we learn about places all over the world.”

When Mr. Larimore isn’t teaching Cultures, he works with around 23 students at the middle school, boosting confidence in English and helping them succeed in school. He helps students to advance their English skills while helping them finish their classwork and



projects at the same time.

Larimore splits his time each day between the middle and high schools.

Larimore said, “English is the number one skill for any student to take away from school, with the other classes a close second. Being on the same level as every other student in school is crucial for success.”



The current middle school building includes the 1964 gymnasium.

be different at a junior high.

She said, “Classes in a middle school are set up by grade level only. Junior high classes are taught by teachers as subject specific, but middle school classes are

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California Middle School SPRING CONCERTS

Band
 Sunday, April 23
 2:00 p.m.



Choir
 Sunday, May 7
 4:00 p.m.

Tables Replace Desks in Many CHS Classrooms

by Katelyn McClelland and Nyssa Gonzalez

California High School teachers are moving towards tables rather than desks, which are looking to be a thing of the past. CHS currently has 15 classrooms with tables and 13 with desks.

According to Principal Sean Kirksey, tables are the newest trend among teachers, especially as schools move to an electronic device for each student.

“Tables are safer and more secure for Chromebooks. Also, we are doing more collaborative activities, and tables provide more work space for students,” said Kirksey.

Surprisingly tables do not take up any more classroom space than desks, and as an added benefit, tables are safer



Kristina Isidro's Spanish classroom has desks rather than tables.

when it comes to emergency situations.

In an earthquake scenario, Kirksey said, “tables would be a little easier to slide under for protection.”

English teacher Kate Lootens made the switch to tables in her classroom this year. She prefers her tables.

“Collaboration can happen often and easily [with tables]. There is no need

English teacher Kate Lootens prefers tables as they provide neatness, collaboration, and surface area.



to move students in order for them to be able to easily work together,” said Lootens. “Students have more room to have both a book and their chromebook open. It can provide supplies at each table so they don't have to worry about forgetting pencils or other common supplies.”

One concern people may have is how the cost for switching from desks to tables will be settled.

“We mostly converted existing furniture or replaced damaged furniture. So far, there have been no additional costs,” said Kirksey.

Many students at CHS would



Designed for individual study, a room with desks, such as Christina Yingst's math classroom, makes collaboration a challenge.

much rather work at tables when in groups, and group work has become more commonplace.

Allee Koestner, CHS junior, said, “I do think that high schoolers should be able to have an effective group discussion in which every member knows how and is willing to participate. I think that tables allow students to strengthen those social skills.”

The prediction for next year is that more teachers will follow the trend of switching from desks to tables. Kirksey said a few teachers are interested in the change, but no decisions have been made at this point. Making this change will definitely make a difference for students and the classroom environment.

In my room . . . Advertising with Mrs. Julia Potter

by Hunter Carpenter

Advertising is a relatively new course at CHS. It is in its second year and taught by marketing teacher Julia Potter. In the course, students learn how to advertise and sell products to consumers, which can prepare them for a business career.

This class has no prerequisites and can be taken by sophomores up to seniors. Right now it is mostly juniors and seniors.

A recent project was to create a product extension for a brand of the student's choosing and come up with ideas on how the product will sell and how well it will sell. Examples are a new kind of candy bar for a brand like Hershey's or a new kind of ice cream for Coca-Cola and so on and so forth.

Students were required to create a prototype of their product from whatever materials they saw fit. Then, they gave a presentation to the class about their new product idea explaining why they think it will sell and succeed.



Mrs. Potter helps students research information about the companies the students have picked to make products for.

Intervention Day Helps Struggling Students

by Brayden Ash

Intervention days are held monthly at California High School to allow students with failing grades to get extra help. If a student has a failing grade in a class, they are required to go to the classroom of the teacher whose class they are failing to get help on missing work or concepts that are hard to grasp.

Sean Kirksey, CHS principal, has done similar programs at other schools during his 23 years in education. He shared his experiences with the building Leadership Team who made a suggestion to the faculty.

“The staff has a strong desire to help struggling students,” said Kirksey.

Mrs. Whitney Toosley, CHS Counselor, said interventions started because a lot of students were struggling to pass all of their classes. These days provide those students more time with their teachers in a smaller group setting, allowing more individualized attention.

The interventions have proved very effective, dropping the number of students with at least one F by 35% in two months.

“There have been both positive and negative comments about the interventions,” said Kirksey. “However, most of the teachers are very supportive of

the program.”

The only negative comment voiced so far is that some students who are passing all their classes feel a better reward would be more time to work on their homework. This has been addressed by opening up the library to them during interventions.

Besides the opportunity to get extra time with struggling students every few weeks, teachers also appreciate the availability for all students, including Nichols and COE students. The timing is very convenient.



During intervention days teachers like Mrs. Kendra Logue help students in a one-on-one setting.

High School Spring Concerts

🎵 **CHOIRS** 🎵

Michele Bilyeu, director
Wednesday, May 3

7:00 p.m.



BANDS

Shawn Smith, director
Sunday, May 7

2:00 p.m.



California Performing Arts Center