Moniteau County R-1 Schools

“Equipping today’s children for tomorrow’s challenges.”

It’s a Good Time to be a Pinto!
from Middle School Assistant Principal
and District Activities Director Rick Edwards

Over the past couple years, our athletics have been at or near the top of the conference in several sports. The athletes have also found success beyond the conference level. Our teams have made deep runs into the play-offs. At the end of last season, track placed 4th in the Missouri Class 3A state track meet.

Not only are the students praise-worthy, but so is our athletic facility, which has become one of the best 3A facilities in the state. Dwight Sanders did a tremendous job overseeing the projects to make this possible, but those projects went well beyond tax dollars spent.

California has had great aid from the community members and businesses. Several businesses have helped support the programs’ facilities. Last spring, we were able to build a modern softball/baseball facility on campus with money left over from extending our tax levy. To give last year’s baseball team the opportunity to play a few games on the new field, multiple individuals put in endless hours to finish the work.

This year that field is in full use for both our softball girls and our baseball boys. Pinto athletics are exciting, but it is also exciting to witness the love this California community has for their young people.

Still, we continually look to improve. With student safety a high priority of the district, we recently purchased enough new football helmets that every player in the high school will be in a five-star helmet. These helmets were the top rated helmet you can buy in the Virginia Tech helmet study. We are also in the process of updating middle school equipment.

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<th>Sunday</th>
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| 1            |              | Kindergarten Information Night 6 p.m. in CES cafeteria | 2 Basketball Sectionals  | 3        | 4      | 5
| 6            |              |                          |                          |          |        | 5
| 7            |              |                          |                          |          |        | No Honors Choir @ Warrensburg
|              |              |                          |                          |          |        | Basketball Quarterfinals
|              |              |                          |                          |          |        | Tri-County Music Contest @ Osage |
| 8            |              | MS Spring Picture Day    | 9 Area/State FFA Officer Selection @ Stover | 10       | 11     | 12
|              |              | Kindergarten Registration 3:30-6:00 in CES cafeteria | ACT Workshop (English/Reading) 5:45 p.m. |          |        | Pinto Express - Marshfield Music Festival |
| 13           |              |                          |                          |          |        | HS District Speech Tourny @ Camdenton |
|              | 14           | FFA Speech Contest       | 15 Lincoln University Ag Contest | 16       | 17     | HS Student Council State Convention |
|              |              |                          | MS Fixin’s for Fathers Breakfast 7:30-7:50 a.m. California Baseball Jamboree | ACT Workshop (Math/Science) 5:45 p.m. School Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. in CHS library |        | State Basketball Championship |
|              | 20           | Middle School Musical 2:00 p.m. in CPAC | 22 NHS Blood Drive in CHS gym - community welcome after 3:30 p.m. | 23       | 24     | Middle School Musical 7:00 p.m. in CPAC |
| 21           | 21           | JV/V BB vs Eugene JV/V Golf @ home | 22 NHS Blood Drive in CHS gym - community welcome after 3:30 p.m. | 23       | 24     | JV/V Golf @ Jefferson City |
|              |              |                          | JV/V BB @ Cole Camp JV/V Golf @ home |          | 25     | JV/V Golf @ Jefferson City |
|              |              |                          | JV/V Golf @ home |          |        | JV/V Golf @ ?? |
|              |              |                          | Varsity Indoor Track @ UCM Elementary Parent/Teacher Conf. 4-8 p.m. |          | 26     | JV/V BB @ Mexico |
|              | 27           | JV/V BB vs Russellville JV/V Golf @ Mexico | 29 District Ag Contest @ Warrensburg | 30       | 31     | JV/V BB vs. South Callaway Varsity Track Meet @ home |
|              |              |                          | JV/V Golf @ Russellville Varsity Tri-County Track Meet at home |         | 31     | Varsity Track Meet |
|              |              |                          | JV/V Golf @ WW |          |        | JV/V BB vs. South Callaway
|              | 31           | District FFA Contest @ Warrensburg | 31 District FFA Contest @ Warrensburg |          | 31     | JV/V BB vs. South Callaway

Summer School has been board approved for May 23 - June 17

NO SCHOOL - SPRING BREAK
Elementary Dives into Swimming Lessons
by Kelly Sommerer and Ali Stauffer

The return to school after winter break marks the start of swimming lessons at California Elementary School. This is the third year that K-5 students have swimming as part of the P.E. curriculum.

The elementary school has offered this swimming unit since taking some years off due to staff changes as well as pool renovations.

Some students were excited, others nervous about the water, but everyone had the privilege to participate in the valuable lessons.

This unit lasts a total of eight weeks, during the months of January and February. Each class gets a maximum of eight swim sessions.

Swimming is an essential life skill, and swim lessons help give students the confidence they need to master it. Students who participate in this unit also gain encouragement and confidence from the instructors who are in the water with them. Finally, exposing students to the water at a young age gives them a recreational activity that they can enjoy for a lifetime.

“In order to build a quality swimming program, you must first build the trust of your students, display a positive environment, and always show you care,” said instructor Jill Hampton.

Basic swimming instruction for grades K-2 includes paddle stroke, kicking skills, floating, pool safety, and comfort holding face in the water while blowing bubbles and swimming. They also learn how to build endurance by swimming on their front and back and learning how to tread water. Students will learn to swim across the pool with a kickboard and without assistance.

Instruction for grades 3-5 includes learning basics of kicking, arm motions, breathing, floating, treading water, front/back glides, and safety. Students work to perform the crawl stroke, elementary backstroke, back crawl stroke, breaststroke, and basic kicking with a kickboard.

Reading Rewards Program Back in Action
by Alissa Stauffer and Kelly Sommerer

Currently the elementary school is preparing for the the California Reading Rewards Program fundraiser which has been conducted by the elementary staff for over 8 years. The fundraiser will go from February 9-19, and grades Pre-K through fifth will participate.

The fundraiser will give the students and family members an opportunity to buy or renew magazine subscriptions while helping the improvement of technology in the classrooms for student use.

The improvement in technology would come from the funds raised with this fundraiser. These funds will be earmarked for replacing out of date technology in the classrooms. There will be needs assessments given to help prioritise what out of date technology gets replaced.

This fundraiser has other benefits for the students as well. The fundraiser gives an extra incentive to help get the children motivated to participate in the fundraiser. For every order placed, the child will receive a keychain or eraser wristband. There is also another prize to be received once the Reachout Booklet is filled out.
Track Team Takes a Swim
by Marysa Spencer

How can students wanting to join track get ready before the track season begins? Easy. They can swim!

One-hour workouts were held at the city pool throughout February. The point of these workouts are to get the athletes in “running” condition. They are focusing on building “endurance, technique, and cardio through long runs, circuit workouts, and swimming laps and sprints at the city pool,” said coach Barbara Pickering.

The pre-season conditioning will help the athletes to get into running, throwing, and jumping condition before track starts. That way, when the season starts, they will not be taking a lot of time to get in shape. This is the first time that the coaches have tried pre-season conditioning at the middle level.

So far, there have been 25-30 participants showing up to each training session. The weather doesn’t affect the practice or attendance since it’s all indoors.

Track season actually starts on February 29, with the first meet at the end of March.

For a student to qualify for track, they must come to practice regularly, have a positive attitude, set a good example, and be willing to work hard. However, they can be dismissed from the squad if they have too many absences, discipline problems, or bad grades.

The coaching team this year are Pickering, Amy Higgins, Darrell Bolin, and Dennis Davis.

Recently, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade held their annual spelling bees coordinated by Jill Meisenheimer, the CMS Librarian. Students competed to qualify for a school-level bee to be held in front of the entire middle school student body and guests.

The bees, sponsored by Scripps of Columbia, start inside the classrooms during each student’s English class. The winners of those bees are then sent to the library to compete in a grade-level bee, which determines who will move on to the school bee.

A total of 14 students from those prior bees were selected to compete in the school-level spelling bee on Thursday, Feb. 18.

The sixth grade contestants were Eli Trimble, Ella Carlyle, Elly Clause, Calen Kruger, and Gracelyn McCoy. Seventh grade contestants were Shaylyn Bax, Jacob McCracken, Lizzi Romo, Trenton Stevens, and Samantha Maldonado. Lastly the eighth grade participants were Zachary Schnirch, Rebekah Farmer, Taylor Barnes, and Charlie Turner.

Amazingly, this is Barnes’s third straight year of winning the School Spelling Bee! However, Stevens will represent CMS at the Area Bee on March 8 due to complications in time for Taylor and Jacob. He is eager and excited to do this!

The Area Bee is sponsored by the Columbia Daily Tribune and held in Columbia.

Valentine’s Dance Provides Funds for Middle School African Library Project
by Byron Moseley

Friday, Feb 5, California Middle School hosted their annual sweetheart dance, which was a fundraiser for the African Library Project. The dance included concessions, their go-to D.J. Bob Dodds, multiple disco lights, and recognitions by way of peer voting.

Students nominated couples through a Google survey. There were couples for each grade and a category for mixed grade-levels as well. Then, the Thursday and Friday before the dance, all students voted for the couple they considered to be the “Sweetest Couple.” The winners were announced at the dance, followed by a special dance with their sweetheart.

The middle school also had a dance competition during the Valentine’s Dance. The top three winners of the dance competition earned coupons for a free item at the concession stand.

“D.J. Bob Dodds does a good job keeping the kids dancing. He keeps the music current, the kids on the floor, and is always aware when they start to trickle off the floor and so changes up the tunes,” said Jill Meisenheimer, the dance sponsor.

The kids weren’t required to dress up for this dance, but most chose to.

Art teacher Maggie Long, who helped to chaperone the event, said, “The dance was awesome. I always love getting to dance and let loose with the kids.”

In my room . . . Eighth Grade Science with Mr. Darrell Bolin
by Carter Ashah

Darrell Bolin has been teaching Science for seven years. He spent the first four years at Bunceton High School teaching all high school science classes while the last three years have been here at the California Middle School teaching eighth grade.

“My favorite part of teaching is that moment when you know the students have gotten ‘it.’ The ‘AH HA, I understand!’” That is so cool and invigorating as a teacher to see,” said Bolin.

Earlier in the year Mr. Bolin’s students learned about chemistry, elements, energy and how everything fits and works together. Currently, they have moved over to life sciences, studying cells and their structures.

Technology is in the forefront in Bolin’s classroom. He has a complete set of Chromebooks which his students use on a daily basis. Bolin utilizes Discovery Education Science Techbook and Google Classroom to assign and collect student work. He stated that the number of paper copies of assignments is probably down 75% - 85% as compared to previous years.

“Why not have students work with what they know,” said Bolin. Students know technology and how to get the most out of it, so let’s embrace the new way of learning.”
From High School Librarian Janet Henley

As a random act of kindness, the Student Council Communications Committee and the Leadership class helped me clean the high school library.

Over 10,000 books were removed from their six-year home to be vacuumed, and nearly 300 sections of shelf were exposed for the first time since we moved into the new high school library where vacuums, dusting cloths, and 409 were used to clean some much needed filth.

I calculated that it would have taken me 10 full days to do this by myself and I would have gone INSANE. Please, keep in mind that sometimes the things that do not cost a dime are the most appreciated (like kiddos with cleaning supplies :)

THANK YOU from one very exhausted librarian!

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