Fall is the Season for Change  
From High School Librarian Janet Henley

Several changes have been made at the California schools, especially at the high school. You may have noticed high school students walking around with black cases with a California schools logo on the side. They look very professional, but they serve a much larger purpose and that is to protect their contents, a Chromebook.

Every high school student has been issued a Chromebook, charger and case to keep with them wherever they go. Students take the devices with them to class and then home where they can work on homework utilizing their new Chromebook. As with any change, challenges also arise. Keeping damage down and functionality up on over 425 devices is a daily task.

Students provide the first line of defense against damage by taking due care and keeping their Chromebook in a protective case. A user fee, which includes insurance, helps maintain the devices.

The functionality is supported by the increased bandwidth that the district was able to obtain with funds from the last bond issue. Teachers and students are becoming more savvy with troubleshooting problems. If all else fails, our technology expert, Mike Moon can always come in and save the day.

As we push further into making more changes with technology in the middle and elementary schools, we are fortunate to have had some experiences under our belt to draw upon. We certainly want to make sure we maintain the Pinto Strong standard, and I, for one, think we certainly measure up.

Major Saver Cards
• Get great deals from great restaurants and businesses.
• Pays for itself after 2 uses.
Sold by Elementary & Middle School students Nov. 10-22

All Moniteau R-1 staff was challenged to become Google Certified in preparation for Chromebook inclusion. Above are the elementary staff who passed their Google Certification test. Front: Nancy Abernathy, Sarah Wickham, Rachel Hees, Dana Lee, Susan Hogan and Kendra Hall. Middle: Stacy Allee, Pam Brauner, Kristen Runyan, Amy Howard, Kayla Barnard, Andrea Hill, Angie Butts-Althoff, Ashley Frazier, Amie Doll, Stacy Friedrich and Tawnya Clause. Back: Mazie Holt and Deborah Francis.

No School Thanksgiving Break

For athletic event times, go to the athletic calendar on www.californiak12.org
Local Business Donates Chromebooks to CES

by Ashley Sommerer

Spieler’s Incorporated, located in California, Mo, donated 13 new chromebooks to California Elementary School. The donation was made to the fifth grade classroom of Lisa Milligan, who has been at CES for five years. Milligan, who is related to the owners, said Spieler’s approached her about the chromebook donation.

“Chromebooks are a very exciting, interactive tool that the students love, and considering the fact that they are fairly new to the school district, the students enjoy them. “The kids are very excited about the Chromebooks, and they like to use them as much as possible. It also enhances their learning,” said Milligan, who is currently using them for every subject except Social Studies, which will eventually make use of the technology as well.

Since the students like the Chromebooks so much, they are very eager to share what they enjoy.

Macie Trimble, a student in Milligan’s fifth grade classroom said, “I think chromebooks are easier to do work on, and I like taking tests on them because it is faster,” she also said, “There is not anything I do not like about using them, I like using them for everything.”

“I like using the chromebooks because it is better than using paper and pencil, and it takes less time,” said Will Boyd.

The Chromebooks are beneficial, and they help the students get more “hands on” interaction when dealing with certain subjects.

Milligan said, “We use them for Xtra Math, which is a fact program, instead of doing Rocket Math or timed test on paper. They also help students learn technology and research skills.”

“I do not like doing math on the chromebooks because I like to write out the math problem and solve the problem like that,” said Boyd who recognizes that fancy technology isn’t the only option.

There are a variety of really good websites for the students to use that helps them learn and at the same time are fun. However, Milligan does not think that it takes away from being able to teach in front of the class.

“I don’t think chromebooks are replacing instruction; they are just there to enhance learning or provide more practice,” said Milligan.

When it comes to keeping the chromebooks in a safe environment, without getting damaged, there must be some type of protection, because they are so thin, they can easily be damaged.

Milligan said, “I have a cubby system where the kids return them to the same cubby each time we use them. We also have had a lot of discussion about the correct way to carry them and take care of them.”

When it comes to teaching lessons, there are a lot of different teaching tools that the teachers can use that is easy access for the students.

“I have a google classroom on the chromebooks, so the students can take quizzes or complete assignments. I only allow certain websites that are bookmarked and Kid Rex, which is a safe search engine for the kids.”

There are many advantages to having these new Chromebooks in our school district, and the students enjoy using them on a daily basis to help in their education.

Mrs. Callie Padgett was born and raised in Fair Grove, MO, and attended Fair Grove School from K-12. After high school she moved to Springfield to attend Missouri State University where she got her Bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a 3.9 GPA.

Mrs. Padgett currently lives in Jefferson City with her husband. In her free time she loves hiking and being outdoors with her husband and their 100-pound German Shepard lap dog. She also enjoys watching college football (Boomer Sooner!), reading, and shopping.

Mrs. Holly Higgins is a born and raised Pinto who attended California all the way through high school. After high school Mrs. Higgins attended Moberly Area Community College in Columbia, MO where she earned her Associate of Arts in Teaching. Holly then transferred to Lincoln University in Jefferson City where she earned a dual degree in Elementary and Special Education. Throughout college she was on the Dean’s List and graduated Summa Cum Laude.

Mrs. Higgins currently lives in Tipton with her husband. She enjoys spending time with her friends and family and loves being outdoors as well as attending STL Cardinal baseball games.

Johnny Appleseed
4th Grade Music Concert
Pioneer John Chapman travels around the United States planting apple seeds.
Thursday, Nov. 17 at 7:00 p.m.
California Performing Arts Center

PTO MOVIE NIGHT
Friday, Nov. 4
6:30 p.m.
Elementary School Gym

Mrs. Jenny Keller was born and raised in Boonville, MO. She attended Central Methodist on a golf scholarship and was a cheerleader. She graduated with a degree in Elementary Education. As a 15-year educator, Mrs. Keller brings a wealth of experience with her. She has served several school districts as an elementary classroom teacher and as a literacy coach.

When she is not teaching, Mrs. Keller likes to spend time with her husband, retired from the Air Force. Together they like to travel and spend time with family. Currently, most of their time is spent chasing two teenagers through high school.
In my room . . . Mrs. Wiley

by Kane McKinney

Courtney Wiley teaches eighth grade history. She originally went to college to be a math teacher but along the way decided history would suit her better. This is her third year teaching, but her first in California.

The kids are currently working on multiple group projects and individual projects that cover the Industrial Revolution.

Chromebooks allow the students to have more resources to use for projects and to help aid in studying. Wiley said, “I love the chromebooks so much, and they make teaching and helping the kids understand things so much easier.”

A Fall Welcome

California Middle School purchased fall decorations from Clenin Farm Supply to decorate the school entrance for the season. Store owner Tyler Clenin proudly set up the display free of charge. (photo by Erica Schnirch)

Sixth Grade Visits St. Louis Zoo

by Shay Oswald

For the second year, the sixth grade class went to the Saint Louis Zoo.

Going to the zoo fits with our science curriculum due to the different animal habitats on display,” said Jennifer Herndon, sixth grade social studies teacher. “St. Louis is also historically significant, and many of our students have never been to a large city, or been in large crowds of people they don’t know or recognize.”

“Students get to see a city. While traveling to the zoo the students enjoyed looking at the culture of the city, the buildings, the unusual cars, or the difference in clothing choices from our small town to a larger populated city,” said Herndon.

The big city feel carries into the zoo as the students experience a big crowd and being surrounded by people they don’t know.

The students love getting to go on an educational trip that is also fun! DJ Schneider, sixth grader, said the most enjoyable part was “Watching the gorillas scare kids!”

The class spent hours at the zoo learning and observing in preparation for their rainforest project, which will take place later in the school year.

The sixth grade teachers decided that October is a good time to take a trip with the class especially to the zoo because the animals are out and moving, and the fall weather is a comfortable temperature. Additionally, the busy spring school schedule makes it hard to find a date that works with the trip.

Caydence Cooper said, “I wish that the students could have brought their families along to the zoo, but I’m glad that we still went together as a class.”

Middle School Magic

On Friday Oct. 14, CMS was provided with a magic show. Gerry Tritz, a magician, juggler, and comedian, paid a visit.

He performed many magic tricks for all the students. His performance not only left the crowd speechless, but also had them laughing hysterically. Tritz’s shows are very family friendly and incorporates the audience’s participation.

Tritz gave the students a preview of a 50-minute show that he performed at The Historic Finke Theatre on Saturday, Oct. 15. (photo by Sam Kirby)
Career Day Features Professional Panels
by Wyatt Bestgen

Counselors Kim Wilkins and Whitney Toosley have been organizing Career Day since May by contacting people and creating activities.

“We had 39 businesses here to talk with students about careers they would like to go into. They had 25-minute sessions talking to students and 15-minute hands-on activities,” said Toosley.

There are a lot of businesses other than those in California. Kids need options to explore rather than limiting themselves to what is down the street.

Toosley said, “This year is more individualized [than last year’s career fair], and based off of what students want. It also helps some kids open up to what’s out there.”

The counselors do realize that for most students, this is just the beginning of the process of choosing a career, but some students already have some idea.

Senior Grant Hofstetter said, “Today helped open my eyes to what is really out there in the world for jobs. Mr. Sanders [superintendent] was very helpful as he talked about how he was in the business field and then switched to education.”

Career day helps businesses to build good relationships between the community and the school. They also do this out of kindness to help kids set up the next step in their life.

Wilkins said, “She hopes it helps kids think outside the box with no right or wrong answer.”

Besides local companies, businesses from the Tipton, Jefferson City, and Columbia were also contacted.

“Forestry was pretty interesting and kind of gives me an idea about going into it in the future,” said Senior Kate McAdams. “It’s good how all the companies come to our school and show us all these different opportunities we can have in the world.”

A+ Helps Students
by Connor Lane

The A+ Schools Program is a way that Missouri is assisting its students with college and to better prepare them for the life that lies ahead. A+ students can earn up to two years of free tuition to many four-year and two-year universities.

California has 56 A+ tutors this fall.

Established in 1995 by the Kenan Institute for the Arts, the A+ Schools Program began with 25 public schools that participated in an extensive four-year evaluation. This program has been successful in assisting students with their education ever since.

According to the Missouri Department of Higher Education, the following are requirements for high school students to be a part of the A+ Program.

- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.
- Enter into a written agreement with your high school prior to graduation.
- Attend a designated A+ high school for 3 consecutive years immediately prior to graduation.
- Graduate with an overall grade point average of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Have at least a 95% attendance record overall for grades 9-12.
- Perform at least 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring, of which up to 25% may include job shadowing.
- Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid the unlawful use of drugs and/or alcohol.
- Have achieved a score of proficient or advanced on the Algebra I end-of-course exam or a higher level DESE approved end-of-course exam in the field of mathematics.

A+ requires 50 hours of unpaid tutoring. Each individual school is in charge of what the students tutor/help with.

Basketball Booster Dinners
Girls Basketball Lunch
Sunday, Nov 20
11am-1pm
in CHS commons

Boys Basketball chili and sandwich Lunch
Sunday, Nov 6
11am-1pm
in CHS commons

Adulst = $8
Kids = $5
under 5 = Free

Tickets can be purchased from basketball players

CHS Choral Dept. presents
Singin’ in the Rain
Saturday, Nov. 12, 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 13, 2:00 p.m.

Adults - $10.00
K-12 students - $5.00
Preschool - free

Senior Jordan Wright helps Bennett Gatlin, fourth grade, on her Famous Missourian project. (photo by Kane McKinney)