



Superintendent Update: November 22, 2013

Quote for the week: “If you are really thankful, what do you do? You share.” **W. Clement Stone**

An “attitude of gratitude” came to my mind as I was thinking about Thanksgiving week. I found an article (below) which helped me concentrate more on being grateful for the wonderful blessings in my life. Gratitude and thankfulness are two words that are somewhat synonymous to me. Please enjoy the holidays and I want to “thank you”...each and every one of you who blesses my life. I want to share my gratitude for the great opportunity I have been given here in Mountain Home. I am thankful for each day I am able to serve the district and the community. I am especially thankful for the children we have the privilege of serving. I am also thankful for all of our staff members who work so hard to give our children the best education possible. And of course I want to thank the parents, grandparents, guardians and community members for all you do for our children. Please enjoy the article and Happy Thanksgiving!

## **How Gratitude Can Change Your Life**

By Marelisa Fabrega

*If the only prayer you say in your life is ‘thank you,’ that would suffice. – Meister Eckhart*

Gratitude means thankfulness, counting your blessings, noticing simple pleasures, and acknowledging everything that you receive. It means learning to live your life as if everything were a miracle, and being aware on a continuous basis of how much you’ve been given. Gratitude shifts your focus from what your life lacks to the abundance that is already present. Giving thanks makes people happier and more resilient, it strengthens relationships, it improves health, and it reduces stress.

## **Research Shows Gratitude Heightens Quality of Life**

Two psychologists, Michael McCollough of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, and Robert Emmons of the University of California at Davis, wrote an article about an experiment they conducted on gratitude and its impact on well-being. The study split several hundred people into three different groups and all of the participants were asked to keep daily diaries. The first group kept a diary of the events that occurred during the day without being told specifically to write about either good or bad things; the second group was told to record their unpleasant experiences; and the last group was instructed to make a daily list of things for which they were grateful. The results of the study indicated that daily gratitude exercises resulted in higher reported levels of alertness, enthusiasm, determination, optimism, and energy. In addition, those in the **gratitude** group experienced less depression and stress, were more likely to help others, exercised more regularly, and made greater progress toward achieving personal goals.



One of the things studies show is that practicing gratitude can increase happiness levels by around 25%. This is significant, among other things, because just as there's a certain weight that feels natural to your body and which your body strives to maintain, your basic level of happiness is set at a predetermined point. If something bad happens to you during the day, your happiness can drop momentarily, but then it returns to its natural set-point. Likewise, if something positive happens to you, your level of happiness rises, and then it returns once again to your "happiness set-point". A practice of gratitude raises your "happiness set-point" so you can remain at a higher level of happiness regardless of outside circumstances.

Research shows that those who practice gratitude tend to be more creative, bounce back more quickly from adversity, have a stronger immune system, and have stronger social relationships than those who don't practice gratitude. He further points out that "To say we feel grateful is not to say that everything in our lives is necessarily great. It just means we are aware of our blessings."

People tend to take for granted the good that is already present in their lives. There's a gratitude exercise that instructs that you should imagine losing some of the things that you take for granted, such as your home, your ability to see or hear, your ability to walk, or anything that currently gives you comfort. Then imagine getting each of these things back, one by one, and consider how grateful you would be for each and every one. In addition, you need to start finding joy in the small things instead of holding out for big achievements—such as getting the promotion or having a comfortable nest egg saved up, before allowing yourself to feel gratitude and joy.

### **There are Many Ways to Practice Gratitude**

A common method to develop the practice of gratitude is to keep a gratitude journal. This exercise basically consists of writing down every day a list of three to ten things for which you are grateful; you can do this first thing in the morning or before going to bed at night. Another exercise you can try is to write a gratitude letter to a person who has exerted a positive influence in your life but whom you have not properly thanked. Some experts suggest that you set up a meeting with this person and read the letter to them face to face.

Last year millions of people took the challenge to go 21 days without complaining, criticizing, or gossiping. To help condition the participants to stop complaining, they each wore a purple No-Complaint



wristband. Several authors in the self-improvement genre have suggested that people do something similar to help condition them to be constantly aware of the things in life that they're grateful for.

## Conclusion

Once you become oriented toward looking for things to be grateful for, you will find that you begin to appreciate simple pleasures and things that you previously took for granted. Gratitude should not be just a reaction to getting what you want, but an all-the-time gratitude, the kind where you notice the little things and where you constantly look for the good even in unpleasant situations. Today, start bringing gratitude to your experiences, instead of waiting for a positive experience in order to feel grateful; in this way, you'll be on your way toward becoming a master of gratitude. You will have an "attitude of gratitude!"

News for the week:

The Mountain Home Bomb Squad (FIRST Robotics) will be traveling to New York City next week to represent Baxter Healthcare, Mountain Home Public Schools, our community and of course their families. I want to express my gratitude for their outstanding accomplishments. I am proud of their accomplishments but I am even prouder of the wonderful young people they are. I truly believe our kids represented in the Bomb Squad will go on to improve the communities they choose to live in and they certainly will have an impact on the world around us. Be careful guys! We will see you on television! The Bomb Squad will be leading the parade as one of the Grand Marshall FIRST Robotics teams and the parade will be televised on NBC 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Central Time on Thanksgiving Day.

Enjoy this video: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1\\_if2vkJFo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1_if2vkJFo)

Happy Thanksgiving!

Lonnie

Congratulations to the Heart Award winners, Lisa carpenter and Debbie Sabo both work at Nelson Wilks Herron and both very deserving of the awards!



## Friday Focus

### From Assistant Superintendent: Leigh Anne Gigliotti, Ed.D

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**Friday, November 22, 2013**

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

*I wish you a happy holiday with family and friends. - Dr. G*



Educational Committee Meeting on Nov. 14



HUB meeting on Nov. 15



3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Music Program on Nov. 18

### **Dates to Remember:**

November 25- Professional Development/Teachscape at the building level (flex day)/NO SCHOOL

November 26-Professional Development/Teachscape at the building level (flex day)/NO SCHOOL

November 27-29 NO SCHOOL/Thanksgiving Holiday



# POINSETTIA FUNDRAISER

Guy Berry College and Career Academy  
Greenhouse



## FLORIST QUALITY POINSETTIAS

13" – 15" with 5 blooms

\$10 Each



RED



MERLOT



CINNAMON



WHITE



Smaller “Strawberries and Cream”

2-3 Blooms ~ \$5 each



Please call 425-1261 or email David Martin  
[damartin@mtnhome.k12.ar.us](mailto:damartin@mtnhome.k12.ar.us) to pre-order

*Poinsettias will be ready for pick up on December 3rd!*



Mountain Home Kindergarten  
Parent Newsletter  
November 22, 2013

### Word of the Month-Consequences

**Charlie Brown Thanksgiving:** What a treat to enjoy a little toast and apple juice with your friends! Students dressed as Pilgrims and Indians celebrated the Charlie Brown Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 21, 2013 with the help from our Junior High FCCLA students. A good time was had by all! Thank you to Ms. Kathy Lawrence and her students for serving our little ones.

**Weather Update:** Our weather is changing almost daily. Please watch or listen to the weather report and dress your child accordingly. We go outside three times a day for recess unless it is raining or the wind chill is below 32 degrees.

### **REMINDERS:**

David's Trail Thanksgiving Hunt (November 25, 2013) contact Sherry Mohler at 870-656-4554 or [samohler@davidstrail.gmail.com](mailto:samohler@davidstrail.gmail.com) Check out more fun activities at <http://davidstrail.org>

**YEARBOOKS:** Don't forget that we will be taking yearbook orders until December 20. Only pre-ordered books will be delivered in the spring, so don't miss this opportunity to purchase your child's yearbook if you would like to have one. This is a great memory of their kindergarten experience. Don't miss out. ☺

### **Upcoming Events-**

Group Picture Day – December 3, 2013  
Yearbook – We are taking **pre-orders** until December 20, 2013  
Christmas Holiday – December 23, 2013 – January 3, 2014

# Charlie Brown Thanksgiving at Kindergarten!







Our daily pledge and moment of silence led by our very own students.



Loren Davis is our very own shoe fairy from Ms. Diane's Class. She donated shoes that she received for her birthday in lieu of birthday presents. Thanks so much Loren!!!





The kindergarten teachers raised \$170.00 for the Pietz Cancer House during the month of October.



Terrific Kids are nominated by their teacher for showing good character.



# NELSON-WILKS-HERRON

## Enrichment Field Trip

The Arkansas Arts Center Children's Theatre on Tour performed The Velveteen Rabbit at Dunbar Auditorium on Monday as part of the NWH Enrichment program. Students were excited to see the play after experiencing lessons based on the story in library, music, art and enrichment in the weeks leading up to the play. The Velveteen Rabbit is a timeless tale of love and sacrifice. This play is based on the classic story by Margery Williams about the transforming power of love. Children's Theatre on Tour will be traveling to tour locations around the state from Nov. 12 to Dec 20 performing The Velveteen Rabbit.





## Big Heart Awards at NWH

Congratulations Mrs. Debbie Sabo, Counselor, and Mrs. Lisa Carpenter, Para!



# DAVID'S TRAIL THANKSGIVING HUNT!

Reservations please contact:

Phone: 870-656-6912

Or Email:

[Kenziejm.davidstrail@gmail.com](mailto:Kenziejm.davidstrail@gmail.com)

Or sign up on facebook page



Please come check us out  
and find more fun  
activities at  
David's trail.org and  
Like us on

[Facebook.com/davidstrail](https://www.facebook.com/davidstrail)

Who : Kindergarten through Fifth grade students.

What : An adventure through David's Trail learning about Indians and hunting. Including bow and arrow lessons for Second grade through Fifth. A Pow-Wow and crafts for First grade and Kindergarteners.

When: Monday November 25, 2013  
Hikes beginning 9:30 last hike leaves at 11:30.

Where: David's Trail, Panther Bay Park Hwy 101. Sign in is at the entry of the park. Reservations are preferred.



# FREE!!





# ***MAINTENANCE MATTERS***

Work is continuing on the Auxiliary Services Building. The furnace has been hung from the ceiling in the food service warehouse. Eric Smith continues to run wiring for all the electrical needs. Greg Jones has been busy hanging the exterior doors. An outside company, BPSi Foam Insulators, insulated the outside walls of the building. Mechanical Plant Services completed the rough-in of all plumbing.

A couple years ago an old canopy was removed from an area in the back of the Senior High. This canopy had been saved in case it was needed. We found a need and have installed it over the front of the food service area in the Auxiliary Services Building. This canopy will be a great help in containing the weather when unloading trucks in the food service warehouse area. It will also keep the rain away from the front doors thus eliminating water from running under doors.

Jeff McLean met with a representative from Entergy on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. On Wednesday they installed aerators on all of our electric hot water heaters. On Thursday, they installed energy savers on all Coke machines. The 'vending miser' will curtail the use of energy on these Coke machines. Equipped with a sensor, it will detect when someone is in the area. When no one is in the area to activate the sensor, the machine will not be running. The drinks will remain cold, but the machine will not be actually running.

We in Maintenance wish everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

11-22-2013

# TRAVELING WITH TRANSPORTATION

These first 13 weeks of school have passed rapidly for Transportation. All drivers are familiar with their routes' regular riders and the sub drivers are doing a good job learning the 43 different routes.

We enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving breakfast this morning as you can see by the pictures.

We in Transportation wish each of you a happy Thanksgiving.







One of the MHEF Teachers Grants is the 7th Grade Promise Class at Pinkston Middle School. Students are enabled to explore careers, post-secondary education opportunities, and the graduation requirements of the MHPs. Along with funding from the MHEF, the Twin Lakes Community Foundation and Wells Fargo Advisors has provided necessary funds to create exciting classroom projects in this exploratory class.

Mrs. Denise Lauerman and the 7th grade Promise students telephone interviewed various universities. Students researched several post-secondary institutions on the internet in order to develop their own sets of questions as they considered the type of post-secondary school they might hope to attend in the future.

Pictured is the Fall, 2013, Promise class as they conducted their phone interviews with college admissions counselors. The students called UCA, Harding, UALR and Lyons College. Mrs. Lauerman had each student prepare cards with individual questions before the interviews. As students listened to the responses from the admissions counselors, they wrote the answers on the prepared cards. All of the questions and answers were placed on a key ring for students to keep and review.

Notice the questions created by the students. As students compared the answers given by the various admissions counselors, they discovered important details about their personal study needs. It was fun to listen to the students analyze key components they will consider as they plan their future.



What is your average class size for introductory classes?

Will an advisor be assigned and how often can I meet with them?

Do you have peer tutors available?

How long is a semester?

How is your school rated?

What activities are offered to students?



How do you provide academic advice to students?

How old do you have to be to apply?

If you don't pass can you retake the subject?



What kind of food do you serve in your cafeteria?

How many arrests have been made for dorm room parties?

What type of athletics do you offer?

Do you offer a work study program or on campus jobs?

What is the best way to get around your campus?

What opportunities are available for undergraduate research?

What age do you have to be to pledge a fraternity or sorority?

What type of technology do you have available on campus?

How many students are accepted each year?

Do you have dorm rooms and if so will you describe them?

How is your parking laid out?

What is the largest scholarship you offer?

Do you have a freshman orientation and what does it include?



# Pinkston Middle School



Week ending 11.21.13



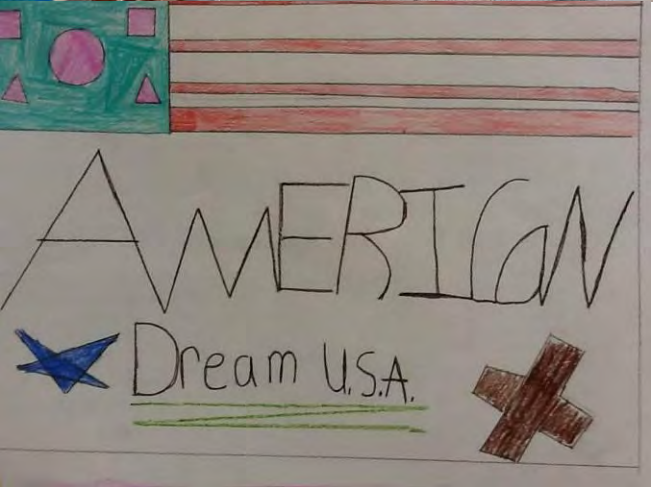
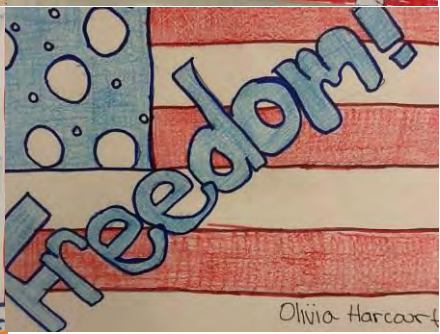
## Veterans' Day November 11, 2013

Students combined their skills and talents to present Songs of Freedom the morning of Veterans' Day for the 6<sup>th</sup> graders, parents, and community members. Ms. Tara's 6<sup>th</sup> grade choir chose songs that they thought best represented their appreciation to all that have served and are serving our country. Students in EAST designed and presented video and music to compliment the choir's selections. Other students created art work to hang in the halls and cafeteria so that all could see their appreciation of what veterans have done for us primarily ensuring our freedoms as American citizens.

**We honor all that have served and are serving our country. Thank you!**









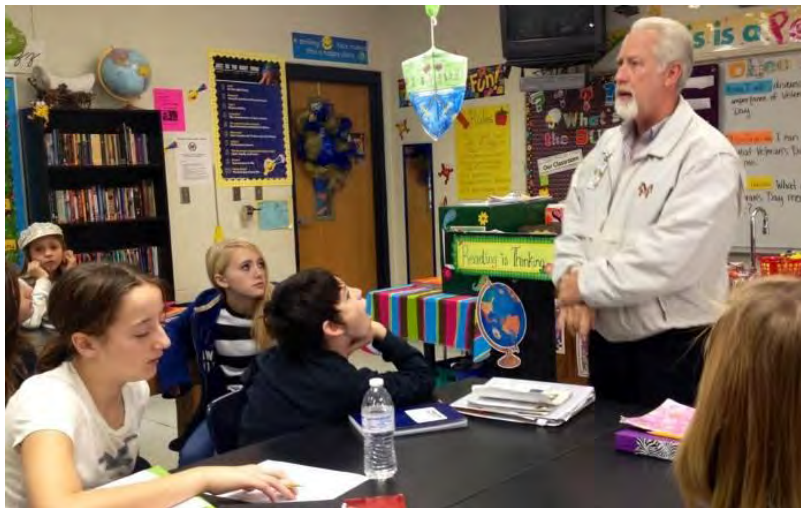
# Mr. Zorman speaks to Mrs. Schaufler's

## 6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies

Mr. Bud Zorman spoke to students in Mrs. Schaufler's 6<sup>th</sup> grade social studies classes about Veterans' Day. Sixth grade students are gathering information on Veterans' Day as they prepare to compete in the annually Elks Essay contest. This year's contest is about Veterans' Day and what it means to the students. Mr. Zorman encouraged students to think about the impact of serving one's country has not only on that person but on the family members. Students shared with different experiences they have had with family members that have served and are serving in the armed forces. Mr. Zorman asked to students to remember that freedom isn't always free that that they should always honor their country by being respectful when they hear the national anthem played and the

Pledge of Allegiance being said.

Thank you, Mr. Zorman, for your service to our country  
and your dedication to our students.



# 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE Science



The 2013 Pinkston Middle School Science Fair winners are:

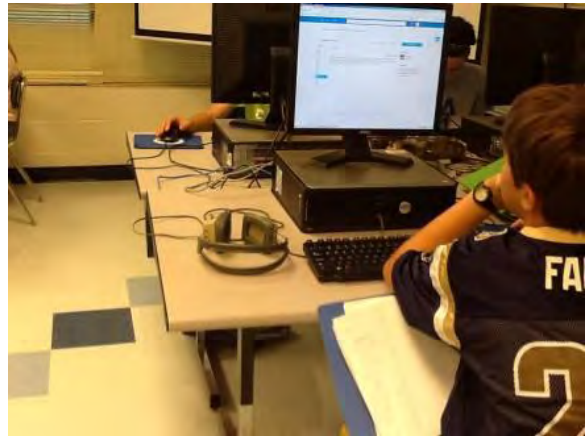
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Jaden Carter, Carson Chentnik, Jared Green, and Joseph Spurlin

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Christian Hagaman, Brandon Pope, Haley Firment, and Mica Justman

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Bayler Crecelius, Savannah Conly, Simon Podsiadlik, and Dylan Kimbriel

OVERALL WINNER: Orrin Wilson

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teachers: Elise Biggs, Roger Fisher, Kristi Majors



Students take their first Science Quiz on Edmodo. Ally Hopper said, "I liked the test online and the idea of being able to do it if you are at home sick." Allie Parsons said, "I liked taking the test on Edmodo because it is just that one question is on the screen and you don't have to squeeze everything into one spot; it's neater." Ally Dill said, "I liked the test on Edmodo, it was easy and I liked that it showed my grade." Simon Podsiadlik said, "I really enjoyed the online test. It was completely different to me because I'm not very advanced in technology, but I might enjoy doing this in the future." Michael Bogard said, "I thought the quiz was fun and interesting and challenging."

Students use their researching skills to plan a long term data collection experiment using 4 O'clock plant seeds provided by Roger Fisher. Students first gathered in their groups to plan their experiment and assigned each group member a job. Using the scientific method students planted seeds that were up to 3 years old, used Miraclegrow and regular tap water, measured the amount of water and decided on how often to water, and kept a record of growth in their data chart. At the end of the data collection period, students created a line graph to show the time that had lapsed and the height of the plant.



Studying the muscular/skeletal system students were able to finish the unit by accessing Edheads.org and perform the virtual hip and knee replacement surgeries. Students will use their questions generated by articles, online information and classroom information to complete a research project to answer those questions and write a five paragraph essay on their topic.





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## **Pinkston Band Students**



Students from Pinkston's French Horn class performed for the Mountain Home Band Booster November meeting. Thank you kids for going above and beyond! Thank you to our band director for always finding performance opportunities for our students 😊 Ms. Rachel Bryant, Mrs. Jill Chentnik, Mr. Chris Davis, and Mr. Tom Chentnik

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## **7th Grade & Jackson Pollock**



7<sup>th</sup> Grade students joined together during 50's Day to create a piece in the likeness of American artist Jackson Pollock. This is the result. The 5'x4' painting is hanging in the North wing of Pinkston Middle School as the prized piece that it is to our kids! Thank you Mr. Hargett for organizing this event.

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## EAST at Pinkston hosted FIRST Robotics

### “Bomb Squad”







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## **College and Career Awareness at Pinkston Guest Speaker**

Students in Mrs. Lauerman's 7<sup>th</sup> grade Promise Class, Coach Newsom's health class, Mrs. Dunavan's EAST class, Mrs. O'Dell's keyboarding class, and Mrs. Camp's family consumer science class had the opportunity to hear Whitney Embrey from Schliemann Center for Women's Health Education.



Whitney Embers is an Exercise Physiologist and also the Director of the Schliemann's Women's Center.

The Purpose of the center is to help women choose a pathway for complete wellness and balance in everyday life. They provide educational services for infants, mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, grandmothers, aunts, nieces, stepmothers and try to meet these women where they are in their stage of life.

They do this by offering classes such as babysitting, childbirth, nutrition and wellness and breastfeeding. She also mentioned the program offers babysitting classes for boys and it is not uncommon to have boys take the classes.

She described the profession by comparing it to Physical Therapy but asked the students to imagine thinking about Exercise Physiology as a preventative measure where as Physical Therapy is the post exercise you do to rehabilitate.

Ms. Embers showed the students how to do exercises correctly for preventative health and explained the importance of a healthy lifestyle physically, mentally and emotionally.

Ms. Embers also talked to the students about the scholarships offered at the center and mentioned there is a Phlebotomy/CNA scholarship available. The program is available at ASUMH.

She wrapped up the program by talking to the students about being thankful for what they are given in life and to make the most out of natural talents and abilities.

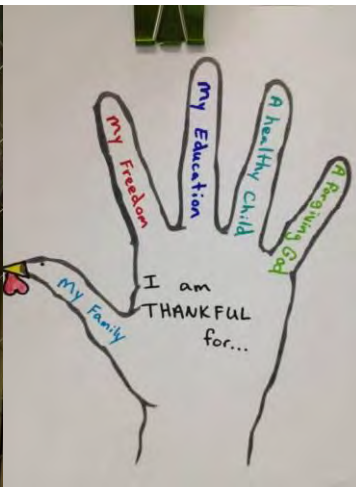
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## **Pinkston Turkey Tour!**

Research has found that students who have and show gratitude make higher grades, exhibit more self-esteem, have increased awareness and involvement in community, etc.... Pinkston teachers modeled to student a way to show their gratitude and thankful by creating a turkey to display outside their classrooms. Many of the Pinkston advisory kids also created a turkey of thanksgiving to display. Pinkston has hundreds of thankful turkeys this Thanksgiving!!

😊 **Happy Thanksgiving to All!**







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## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Promise



Mrs. Lauerman and Mrs. Morgan assisted the 7th grade Promise students as they telephone interviewed various universities. Students researched several post-secondary institutions on the internet in order to develop questions for the school or schools that they might be interested in attending after HS graduation.

Phone interviews with college admissions counselors with various institutes such as UCA, Harding, UALR and Lyons College. Mrs. Lauerman had each student prepare cards with individual questions before the interviews. As students listened to the responses from the admissions counselors, they wrote the responses on the prepared cards. All of the questions and answers were placed on a key ring for students to keep and review.



## Pinkston Advanced Art



Mr. Hargett's advanced art students toured the mobile art gallery that made a stop at the Donald W. Reynolds library for the week. Students listened as their guide discussed personification, the use of color, and interpretation. Pinkston extends a special thank you to Julie Wright for sponsoring the art mobile in Mountain Home. For more information on the traveling art mobile go to:

<https://www.arkarts.com/sslpage.aspx?pid=503>

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### Pinkston Yearbooks on Sale Now!!!

Order forms will be sent home in advisory classes or can be picked up at the main office. Yearbooks will be \$30 plus sales tax. Get yours ordered now!





*Dalton W. 7th*



*Breanna H. 7th*



## **Pinkston Box Tops News**

The Halloween candy-grams using your “box top bucks” was a huge success! We will be able to use those more this year.

**WE HAVE A NEW CHALLENGE!** For the months of November and December we are having an advisory classroom challenge. Bring your box tops to any of the drop sights around school or with your advisory teacher. The leader will be announced every Friday. The advisory classroom that has the most box tops collected by December 13 will win a pizza party on December 20! Teachers we haven't forgotten you because you will get gift certificates for Subway and Blackbird cafe! Get your families and neighbors to help collect.

**Pinkston also collects Campbell soup labels (which includes a lot of brands) so please send in those labels and it will help us earn incentives and equipment for Pinkston!**



**We are on Twitter! @Pinkstonmiddle**  
**EAST at Pinkston Tweets @AdunavanEast**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Promise has Twitter and Tweets 2 @deniselaerman**  
**Pinkston Choir TWEETS! @Pinkstonchoir**  
**DARE is on Twitter @mandeelove32**  
**Pinkston Media Center joined TWITTER!**  
**Pinkston Media Center @pmslibrary12**

### Upcoming Events for Pinkston Middle:

- Mountain Home School Board Meeting – November 21**
- Thanksgiving Holiday – November 25-29**
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band Concert – December 10**
- Choir Concert – December 17**
- School Board meeting – Choir sings – December 19**
- Second Quarter ends – December 20**



Nov. 22, 2013

# MHHS CAREER ACADEMIES



## MHHS French & Spanish Feast



Recently, Señora Wescoat and Señor Rodriguez's Spanish students researched a Spanish-speaking country. Madame Lawrence's French I class researched information regarding a French region and her French II classes explored French-speaking countries. French students compiled their research into an oral presentation accompanied by a Power Point presentation. Posters were created by the students which included maps, interesting facts, and images related to the assigned area. One of the required components of research was to locate a recipe of a traditional dish of that region or country. Students compiled the dishes at home and brought them to school to share with their classmates in Spanish and French classes. Students were able to experience tastes from places such as France, Madagascar, Haiti, Columbia, and Mexico.





# *Bon appetit!!!*



Students from the HHS Academy at MHHS were treated to lunch at Chili's on Wednesday, November 20th as a reward for raising the most money for the HHS Walk-A-Thon in October. The HHS Academy raised over \$1100.00 for the Baxter Regional Hospital Foundation Community Houses.



The Branson Landing....food, entertainment, and retail therapy shopping covers all target markets.





# Mrs. Smith's Lodging Management and Intro. To Hospitality classes visited Big Cedar Lodge



The Garden Chapel



Devil's Den Bridge was built by the Amish.



The wall was made from a variety of animal hides.



Kristn and Bailey from Lodging Management interviewed the reservations manager. During the interview they learned the biggest complaint from their guests was the décor in the rooms. After explain the relationship between Big Cedar Lodge and Brass Pro the guests understood what made the décor so unique.



A

C

M

E



On Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> Mr. Carpenter took some of his construction students to Cloud 9 Ranch. This was a fact finding mission for these students. Students got ideas of possible floor plans. Out at the Ranch students took inside and out measurements of the portable buildings they have there. Students spoke with Mr. Jackson and he showed us around and told us all about how they built the sheds they use there for guests to stay in. It was a great learning experience for the students and now we will be using our class time to formulate a floor plan, and estimating a building cost.





# Northcentral Arkansas Education Service Cooperative



## Teacher Center Coordinator Updates November 2013

### 1. PARCC/CCSS:

- 54 districts in Arkansas requested additional testing opportunities. Next Generation Assessments is expected to meet this request.
- Practice tests are for practice only and no data will be collected.
- Speaking and listening assessments will be developed beginning in December 2013.

### 2. Teacher Excellence Support System (TESS):

- The state is looking at using literacy scores for ALL content growth scores even those in non-tested areas. Teachers in these areas will need literacy training in order to implement literacy into their instruction. There will be a more definitive answer after the TEAC meeting on November 19th.
- Administrator Teachscape accounts expire December 31, 2013. Both test components must be completed and successfully passed by this date or the individual or district will have to pay \$349 for a new account. Administrators will be required to start over on the assessment even if they have passed part one but have not completed part two by the deadline. The lockout times if an administrator has an unsuccessful attempt are non-negotiable.
- Administrators who have not passed both of the testing components may not evaluate teachers beginning in the 2014-15 school year.
- The ADE will no longer be providing information as to who has passed the assessments due to FOI. District TESS Implementation Managers may be able to call Teachscape directly for information but may also be required to submit a request in writing.
- The ADE has released a collection of video tutorials to assist teachers and administrators with the implementation of Arkansas' new teacher evaluation system. These videos are in Apple iTunesU. Click on [this link](#) then choose "View in iTunes." These tutorials will be posted on the ADE TESS page very soon.

#### ● ADE Fall TESS Trainings at Northcentral (not required)

##### ○ November 18 - TESS Coaching

This ADE training will assist administrators in having conversations with teachers to improve instructional practice based on their observation findings. The goal is for administrators to give specific feedback as it relates to the evaluation rubric to help guide teachers to become more effective in classroom instruction and increase student achievement.

- For 2014-15 and coming years - the ADE will provide Teachscape accounts for new administrators.



### 3. Principal and Superintendent Evaluation

- All superintendents, principals, and any other central office administrators who evaluate principals are required to attend a two-day LEADS training. Assistant principals are required to attend one day of the training. ADE is providing one final make-up session on December 10-11 (assistant principals will attend on the 11th only). Any of these administrators who need to attend this make-up may contact me for registration information.
- ADE is planning regional LEADS update and review sessions for superintendents in January and February. These sessions will help them better understand the formative process.
- ADE will be providing LEADS training for administrators in specialty areas such as GT administrators, SPED administrators, and curriculum administrators. The training will be one day and will be scheduled for summer 2014.
- ADE is preparing training for LEADS and TESS support such as student engagement. More information will be provided soon.
- Superintendent Evaluation Timeline:
  - Set up rubric - 2013-14
  - Pilot - 2014-15
  - First year of implementation will be 2015-16.
- More info can be found at [this link](#).

### 4. Other Information

- Act 969 changed the PD rotation during the last legislative session. Rules and regs for this law were released on October 14. However, these rules and regs will be changing due to the recent legislative action in the Extraordinary Session and the PD hour cut.
- There is no longer a requirement for 6 hours of stand-alone technology PD. Technology should be embedded in other PD.
- K-12 STEM Resources are now available which include full classroom videos of CCSS lessons. <http://ideas.aetn.org/stem>
- ADE has hired a new communications person, Kimberly Freedman.
- State's will be required to have an A-F rating system in place for all public schools beginning in 2014-15. The rating system must include status and growth. If a plan is not developed by the state, the code will continue as follows:
  - A - Exemplary
  - B - Achieving
  - C - Needs Improvement
  - D - Focus
  - F - Priority
- Child Nutrition Unit is moving from a 5-year monitoring cycle to a 3-year.
- Broadband - 2 committees will be reporting to the Governor in December.
- FASTER - Committee focusing on infrastructure
- Quality Digital Learning Committee - Committee on the education side
- Looking at 100 kb per student (national group) - one group recommended 400 kb (local group)
- AAEEA hired Robin King to assist districts in reviewing budgets and finances to avoid fiscal distress
- ADE is looking for new ACSIP software that will communicate well with the finance software.
- [Act 1120](#) provides the opportunities for reviews to support districts in avoiding audit findings.
- An Office of Intensive Support has been created and is housed at the Southeast Cooperative. The office houses one financial and one curriculum expert to assist districts with financial and curriculum issues.
- AIMM will replace Pathwise as the training for mentors in the 2014-15 school year. Anyone who will be serving as a mentor must be trained during the spring or summer of next year. The training will be one day only. We need to know how to plan for these trainings so please let us know how many teachers will need to be trained in your district if you will not have your own trainers.