

FROM SUPERINTENDENT DR. MYERS

Superintendent Update: December 19, 2014

Quote for the week: "There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."—Albert Einstein

At this time of the year, I am thankful for so many miraculous things I believe to be true. Do you believe that life is miraculous? Are you waiting for a miracle to happen in your life? Thanks to A. Devalia for her inspirational ideas and words as I combine her thoughts and my own thoughts interspersed throughout.

Just imagine what it would be like to live your life as if everything is a miracle. Sometimes people look for some kind of miracle when their life is in need of a fix. Other times, people may pray for a miracle when a loved one is seriously ill or when they face a life threatening challenge.

I remember praying for a miracle years ago when my son and wife both had potentially serious health situations. With Karen and Reagan having surgery, both turned out well. Those two events certainly motivated me to get my priorities straight. Nothing like loved ones coming through difficult health issues to help one become more unselfish!

"The invariable mark of wisdom is to see the miraculous in the common" – Ralph Waldo Emerson

What's a miracle and how does one recognize one?

Wikipedia gives us a number of interpretations of what we mean by a miracle:-

An unexpected event attributed to divine intervention.

A fortuitous event.

Any statistically unlikely but beneficial event, such as the survival of a natural disaster.

An event which is regarded as "wonderful" regardless of its likelihood, such as birth.

Survival of a terminal illness.

Escaping a life threatening situation.

Beating the odds.

Some "coincidences".

In all of the above, the common thing is some unlikely or unexpected occurrence, or something that just seems so incredible such as the birth of a child.

I have witnessed the miracle of my two children being born! There Aerren and Reagan lay cradled next to their mother, with their eyes wide open and looking as if they had always been there. It was one of the most beautiful and miraculous moments of my life.

"I am realistic – I expect miracles" – Wayne Dyer

In reality, everything around us is a miracle if only we can learn to see and recognize these miracles. By living your life as if everything is a miracle, every moment becomes something to savor and live in awe of. You naturally get to feel great appreciation and gratitude for your life, knowing that you are blessed with such miracles all around.

1. The miracle of life.

The greatest miracle is that you are alive. How is it that a mass of flesh and blood is able to partake and experience what we call life? What allows us to experience the world through our senses?

If you have never thought about your very life as a miracle, please take a pause right now.

What is it that makes your blood go through your body – and what's that universal intelligence that makes you tick?

Isn't it a miracle that somehow life was created on this planet we call earth? It all seems to happen

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Special dates of interest:

* Christmas Break December 22-January 2

like magic – and yet we hardly ever pause to reflect on the biggest miracle of all.
Life – our greatest miracle and gift – and even more reason for you to appreciate it every day.
“Each of my days are miracles. I won’t waste my day; I won’t throw away miracle” –
Kelley Vicstrom

2. The miracle of love



After the miracle of life, the greatest miracle is that of love.

But what is love?

Love is much greater than what we feel romantically. It is what makes us sing, dance and makes us human.

“Love doesn’t make the world go around; it just makes the ride worthwhile.” – Franklin P. Jones

Love is the most amazing thing in our lives. It is what makes us human, what makes life worth living – in the grander scheme of things, nothing else truly matters. The size of our homes, bank balances, the beauty of our partner, the speed of our car – all those things pale in insignificance when we face the miracle of love.

“Where there is great love there are always miracles” – Willa Cather

Love leads to other miracles such as kindness. Have you noticed how great you feel afterwards when you have done someone a kind deed?

Through the miracle of our love, we can indeed transform the world – even a hug, a loving touch or just a smile can cause the miracle of healing others.

There are so many simple things we can all do on a daily basis to bring more love into our lives. Together we can all make this an even more beautiful and miraculous world than it already is.

So from today onwards, appreciate and acknowledge all the love around you and in you. Look for ways of spreading your love through compassion and making a practical difference to those around you.

3. The miracle of your body

To experience this thing we call life, we need our bodies to function as well as possible. Our bodies somehow sustain themselves, grow, repair and fight to stay alive till the very end. There are countless chemical reactions and exchanges going on within us every second and everything seems to run like clockwork. Even when disease or decay sets in, our bodies continue to strive and sustain themselves almost like magic.

The durability of our body is a miracle in itself. Have you ever known of children born a few weeks prematurely and who have spent the first month or more of their life in an incubator? It is heart-breaking to see little guys or girls, a tiny bag of skin and bones fighting for dear life and getting stronger day by day, ounce by ounce. Experiencing something like that sure opens you up to the miracle of life – and also makes you realize that perhaps there really is something much bigger than us out there and indeed within us.

From today onwards, why not commit to take great care of your body?

You only have to take some simple and practical self-care steps and your body will begin to miraculously heal itself and sustain you for the rest of your life.

4. The miracle of nature



Where does one even begin to extoll the sheer beauty of our natural world?

Let’s start with one of the main symbols of beauty in our society – the majestic flower. Have

you ever looked at a beautiful flower closely and failed to be moved by its magnificence and symmetry?

“The miracles of nature do not seem miracles because they are so common. If no one had ever seen a flower, even a dandelion would be the most startling event in the world” – Unknown Author

A flower is but just one example of all the wonderful nature that makes up our earth and indeed beyond the earth. Look at the sky this evening and marvel at all the twinkling stars all around us. Just how do those points of light just stay there? And who put them up there?

Everything in nature is so beautifully symmetrical and perfect –A major Craftsman at work.

From today onwards, please spend some time in nature daily and simply appreciate the miracle of what’s around you – from the humble ant to the majestic oak. And then for the rest of your life, be in continuous awe of the nature around you.



“I have found in life that if you want a miracle you first need to do whatever it is you can do – if that’s to plant, then plant; if it is to read, then read; if it is to change, then change; if it is to study, then study; if it is to work, then work; whatever you have to do. And then you will be well on your way of doing the labor that works miracles.” - Jim Rohn

It’s in your hands to see life as a miraculous experience.



Make the rest of your life a miracle

Your journey of seeing the world as a miracle has only just begun. From today onwards, your eyes and the other senses have been opened up.

See everything around you as the miracle that it really is – and your life will never be the same again.

So everything is a miracle, how will **you** live from now onwards?

News for the week:

We had another successful school board meeting. It is a blessing for our district to add more new buses and significant technology for our children. Thank you MHPS Board of Education for approving our buses and computers. The 9th grade football team was recognized for their winning season.



Hackler students present at the Board meeting



Congratulations to Carie O'Brien on receiving the "Teacher's Heart" award. Carie works at Guy Berry College and Career Academy. She would be the first to tell everyone that Guy Berry works as a team, but we must recognize that Carie makes a huge difference in the lives of the children with her "Big Teacher's Heart!" Congratulations!



Thanks to Centennial Bank for the very generous support of our students!

I am in Annapolis, Maryland witnessing the marriage of my nephew Eric Myers. I am very proud of this young Naval Academy graduate and wish Eric and Michelle a truly wonderful marriage. I will see everyone after the holidays. I love and appreciate each of you.

Happy Holidays!
Lonnie

MOUNTAIN HOME JUNIOR HIGH

Celebration of Honor Integrated Project

Photos courtesy of Tammye Quick and her journalism class













Pre-AP 8th Grade Science students learn about Electromagnetic Waves. This experiment was to see the effect of UV rays on a known indicator.



These are the Washington D.C. scholarship recipients.

The first was presented by the Elks Lodge to Jessica Johnson, pictured with the Exalted Ruler of the Elks. The second was presented by American Legion to Savannah Hilton, with Commander McCleod and Frank Kaye.



Mountain Home FFA ACA/ACRA RODEO



January 3rd 2015

7:00 p.m. – Midway, AR

Bar None Cowboy Church

Presented by :

CLAY MAXEY

Events:

*** Bull Riding * Bareback**

***Saddle Bronc * Ranch**

Bronc * Jr & Sr Barrels

*** Kid's Boot Race ***

**\$500 ADDED
MONEY PER EVENT
(BB/SB/BR only)**



Funny Man

**Bryan White
from
Midwest City, OK !**

Sponsors

**Baxter Co Farm Bureau
AM/PM Truck Services
Southern Tag & Label
1st AR Bail Bonds
Collier Auto Supply
Porter's Pawn
Discount Towing
Roller Funeral Home
Gregg's Farm Supply
Baxter Co Animal Clinic
Derek McCoy State Farm
Arvest Bank
Coleman Family Dentistry
Thompson Insurance
Bar None Cowboy Church
Dent Boys**

Morris Rodeo Company

ADMISSION:

\$6.00 Adults

\$3.00 kids 10 & under

Contact:

Josh Baker 870-404-8237

Jacquie Albright 870-404-0432

Richard Grissum 870-421-1490



Christmas Around Hackler Intermediate School

Best "Christmas" Dressed

Judges: Todd Gilbert Insurance Employees

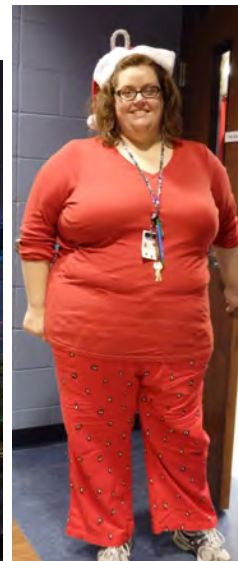
Kim Stephens

Kelly White

Lisa Brown

Winner:

Amber Wescoat



Nothing says "Christmas" like an ugly sweater

Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest

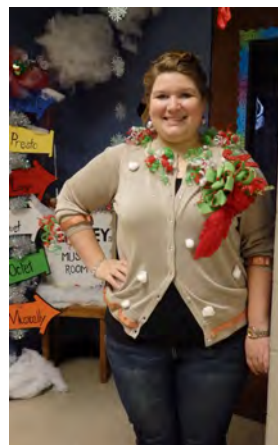
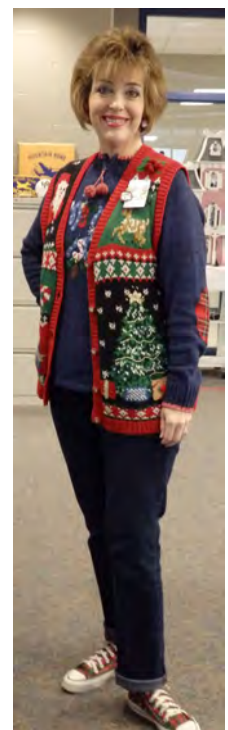
Judges: Central Office Employees

Marissa Byler

Nancy Harwell

Shirl Miller

Winner: Rick Kaiser





Christmas Around The World



Which country began the tradition of hanging wreaths and sending cards? (England)

Which country began the tradition of the Christmas tree? (Germany)

Which country gave us the poinsettia? (Mexico)

Students are always excited for the holidays and are thrilled to learn about holiday traditions around the world. Most enjoy discovering which of their ancestors' customs are still being used today.

Students in Mrs. Spivey's and Mrs. Dwyer's rooms participated in a day-long event on Friday, December 12th to celebrate diversity in our world by participating in an annual "Holidays Around the World" event. This multicultural experience brings to light celebrations held in the winter months all over the world. The United States of America, Germany, Russia, and Mexico are represented each year. Many countries change from year to year depending on community resources. Mrs. Spivey coordinates this event with parents, grandparents, Ms. Naomi Lassen, several ESL students, and Ms. Beckham's aspiring future teachers.

Students spent the day rotating between 12 countries, each of which are represented by a decorated table. Most tables have a craft to make, a food item to sample, and a presenter who teaches a song, plays a game, or tells stories about their homeland. Mrs. Spivey says, "It is a huge undertaking, but so worth it! It is a FANTASTIC way to bring the concepts of acceptance and tolerance into our schools. It is nice to see the boys and girls make connections from place to place as they compare and contrast each place. The most important lesson I think my students learn is that no matter what religion or what ethnicity, we all share certain traditions like gathering together with family and friends to feast and celebrate. It truly is a small world!"



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM
THE HACKLER INTERMEDIATE STAFF**



Hackler's very own Elf on a shelf!

Hackler Intermediate School Newsletter

965 West Road, Mtn. Home, AR 72653 ~ Phone 425-1288 / Fax 425-1290

Principal: Sondra Monger

Mrs. Cassy Barnhill, Assistant Principal
Mr. Kevin Roach, Assistant Principal



Mrs. Kristyn Goodwin - Counselor
Ms. Mary Beth Wyatt - Counselor



Around Our School

December 18, 2014

- Yearbooks may be ordered online until February 27, 2015. We are no longer taking pre-orders in the office. The cost is \$22 with name and \$20 with NO name engraved on the cover. You may order online at www.inter-state.com/yearbook and the code is 754783.
- Tutoring will resume when we return from Christmas break on January 5, 2015.
- Lunch accounts should have a zero balance before the second semester begins on January 5, 2015. If you have questions contact Mrs. Braunagel with Food Service at 425-1225.
- No students December 22, 2014 through January 2, 2015. Students will return on January 5, 2015 and this will be the beginning of the 3rd quarter.
- 1st Semester report Cards will be sent home on January 8.

Merry Christmas

And

Happy New Year

From the Hackler Intermediate Staff

Dec. 19, 2014

MHHS CAREER ACADEMIES

E A S T



EAST students helped out in Ms. Baker's class, at Nelson Wilks Herron, with their Hour of Code activity. Hour of Code is a World Wide campaign to expose students K-12 to coding and computer science.





Mrs. Thrasher's sociology class recently toured the Baxter County Jail in conjunction with their unit on crime and punishment. Thank you, Coach Paden, for driving us!!

You are invited



FIRST Robotics Kickoff

Saturday January 3rd, 2015

Join us for the reveal of the 2015 game challenge and the start of our season

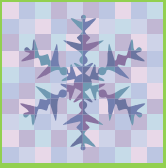
Meet and greet with refreshments at 9am

Webcast begins at 9:30am

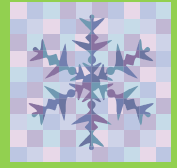


*Donald W. Reynolds Library
300 Library Hill Lane
Mountain Home, AR 72653*

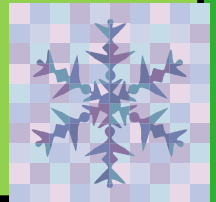
 *@frcteam16
#omgrobots*



BigLil Activity Kick—Off



The first official BigLil activity kicked off today at the Schliemann Center for Women's Education. They did lots of fun team building activities. There were 12 Bigs (HS) and 14 Lils (Pinkston) at the meeting. The BigLil program is an initiative to help promote positive self esteem for middle school girls with mentorship from high school girls. Learn more about the BigLil project at <http://biglilmentoring.weebly.com>



FEA helps with Christmas Around the World



Students from FEA (Future Educators Association) recently spent the day with third grade students from Mrs. Dwyer's and Mrs. Spivey's classes. They taught lessons to the third graders about holiday traditions in different countries throughout the world. A big thank you to Mrs. Spivey for allowing us to help with this event!





MHHS Student Council spread holiday cheer with the delivery of candy canes. English teacher Haley Wilhite received her candy cane from Student Council President/Santa Spencer Wilbur together with his entourage of elves and reindeer.



AP Biology Participates in the 115th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count



Dr. K. Bouck's AP Biology class participated in the Mountain Home Audubon Bird Count. In its 115th year, the Audubon Bird Count is one of the longest running citizen science projects in existence. Students censused birds around the school grounds and cross country trails. Highlights included 24 mourning doves and 16 white throated sparrows. The high school's Science Outdoor Club participated in the Buffalo National Park Census at Dillard's Ferry where the highlight was a group of 4 bald eagles circling the river.



FEA helps out at Breakfast with Santa and Hackler Holiday Bash

Students from FEA (Future Educators Association) helped with the recent Hackler Holiday Bash and Breakfast with Santa. They had a great time at both events! And just remember, you're never too old for a visit with Santa!

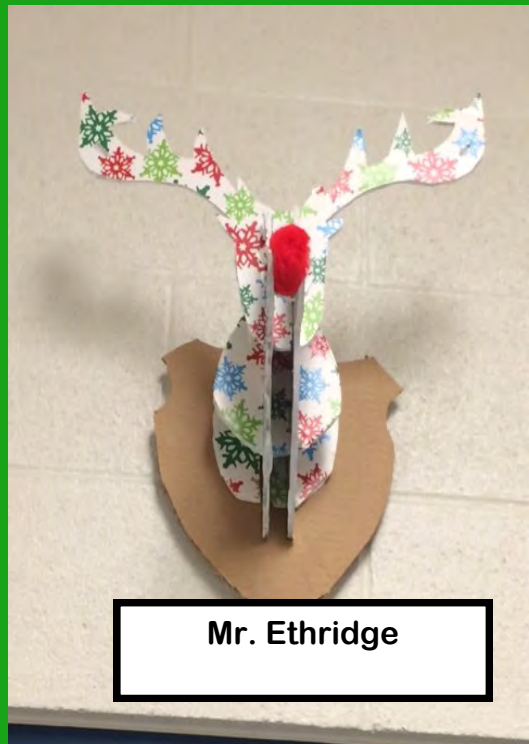




Mr. Rucker



Faculty creativity abounds at MHHS! Teachers have stepped up this holiday season and decked the halls! These doors dazzle the students, teachers, and staff this year and display each teacher's artistic talents! Please take a few minutes to see if you have the knowledge to know which teacher is behind each of these festive creations!



Mr. Ethridge



Ms. Pierson



Ms. Wilhite



Mrs. Seaman



Mrs. Camp



Mrs. Gonten



Mrs. Beckham



Mrs. Blevins

Pinkston Middle School



Week ending 12.19.14

UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATERS FOR EAST



Faculty and Staff teamed up to support EAST by entering their Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest. Each entry was \$20 and came with the privilege of wearing jeans for the week! Each contestant entered a digital picture of his/her sweater. Sweaters were then put to the vote! Each vote was a penny and the most votes won the honor of being the Ugliest Christmas Sweater! Below you will see the entries followed by the grand prize winner as well as the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, place winners.



Grand Prize Winner: Mrs. Majors,
1st runner up is Mrs. Camp, 2nd
runner up is Mrs. Fairchild, 3rd
runner up is Mrs. Lara Case, and 4th
runner up is Mr. David Martin!
Congratulations to our winners and
thank you everyone for supporting
EAST @PinkstonMiddle!

Pinkston Student Art:



1001

Pink



PIE volunteers sold candy grams this week! Students could send a candy message to a friend, teacher, or back to themselves for \$1 or 10 box tops! Thank you PIE for giving our students fun opportunities throughout the school year!



Congratulations to the Pinkston Choirs for a wonderful concert this past Tuesday night. Thank you to all the parents and community that help to support our choir students!

The local ELKS sponsor an annual essay contest for our 6th grade students. This year students were to write about what the Pledge of Allegiance means to them. Out of 365 entries Pinkston

Middle School has 3 that will advance to the state level completion! Congratulations to Gage Hershberger, Sophie Quick, and Reagan Hasselwander. Thank you to the ELKS for continuing that opportunity for our students to learn more about the freedoms of the United States and providing an opportunity for students to be recognized for their essays. Special thank you to Mr. Day and Mr. Friend for coming to Pinkston to announce our Pinkston winners.

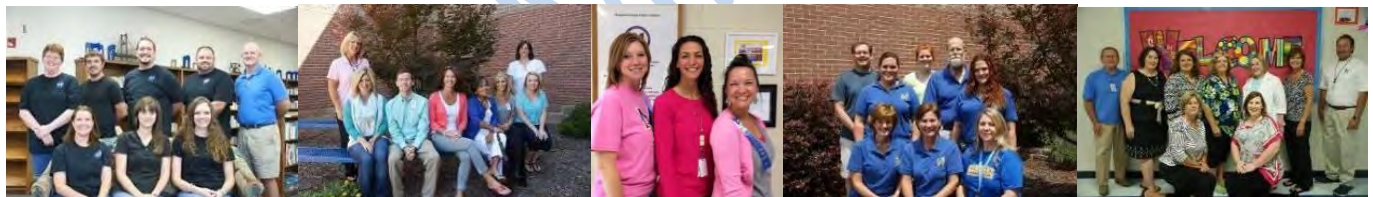


FCCLA

Members of FCCLA team up to support Austin Snyder. Students in family consumer science class popped popcorn and baked cookies to sell as an afternoon snack today.

Pinkston students donated a \$1 for each snack. All proceeds go to Austin Snyder.

Thank you students for your hard work and generosity!



Pinkston Middle School @Pinkstonmiddle

EAST at Pinkston @AdunavanEast

7th Grade Promise @deniselauerman

DARE @campfield10

Pinkston Media Center @pmslibrary12

Upcoming Pinkston Middle School Events

Dec. 22-Jan 1 – Christmas Break

Jan. 2 – Teacher In-service

Jan. 5 – Welcome Back Students! Spring Semester Begins

Jan. 5 – Students will start their day with an assembly – 6th grade in the cafeteria and 7th grade in the gym