



Superintendent Update: December 20, 2013

Quote for the week: "An unhurried sense of time is in itself a form of wealth."—Bonnie Friedman

My wish for you this holiday season is to enjoy the "wealth" of time. Take time for your loved ones and for yourself. Just know how much I appreciate each of you! The following list is a paraphrase and edited version from Alex Murashko. I hope you enjoy it.

Top 10 Ways to Have an Unhurried Christmas Season

1. Enjoy a few sips of your morning coffee or tea for five minutes without doing anything other than enjoying the moment. What an excellent time to follow up those five minutes with reading or sitting quietly for even longer.
2. Take an evening walk in your neighborhood and enjoy the decorations that may be up. Make it a stroll. Feel the crisp air on your face. Engage all of your senses. If the weather is warm enough, move your exercise routine of jogging to the outdoors. Fresh air in our Mountain Home is the best!
3. As you are preparing to buy a gift for someone, slow down enough to ask yourself, "What would they enjoy? What would bless them, encourage them, enrich them, help them?" See if you can resist the temptation to make gift purchasing an exercise in efficiency, but rather an offering of love. Think of the things that mean the most to you...I bet many of the things you are thinking of are not expensive!
4. Slow down enough to look a salesperson in the eye and thank them for their help. Bless them in the midst of what is a likely a very frantic season for them. Give a tip at Sonic, increase your tip at restaurants or just simply be extra kind to each and every "busy" person you encounter.
5. Give yourself the gift of one morning to wake up without an alarm clock going off. Give yourself the gift of several mornings without an alarm clock!
6. Take a moment at the end of a day to think back over it. What are you grateful for? Say thanks. What was hard? Ask for help. What do you wish you did differently? Ask for forgiveness.
7. Take the opportunity to spend a little time with someone whose needs are greater than yours. The needs might be financial, emotional, physical, etc. Giving truly is more blessed than receiving...and it can be the gift of time to someone who needs attention.



8. At a Christmas party or holiday gathering, be more present to others by listening well to what they are sharing. Ask questions that express interest and care. Give a hug at every opportunity.
9. Take a moment to think about what Christmas means to you. Could the spirit of the season be a spirit we could share every day of the year!
10. Is the season about peace, sacrificial giving, humble servant hood, everyday kindness holiday cheer or do other thoughts come to your mind? No matter your positive thought...carry it throughout the year!



Guy Berry College and Career Academy student, Marissa Andreas. She is another wonderful example of the tremendous young people in our District!

News for the week:

With the last two weeks has come some adversity, but also many opportunities to bless other people. Our folks at MHPS have blessed me and our district in so many ways. I have to mention some things, even at the risk of leaving someone out. If that happens, please understand how much we appreciate any person who helped us work through the problems brought on by inclement weather.

I will start with our Maintenance Staff. Mike, Janey and the entire maintenance and custodial staff worked long hard hours to clear parking lots, repair heating units, make sidewalks safe, and support anyone calling in with a particular weather related issue.

Our Food Services Director Debbie Braunagel and High School Cafeteria Manager Alicia Barcelona rose to the occasion on the day we could not allow high school students to access the cafeteria. "Meals on wheels" arrived at the high school and the kids ate in their 3rd block class. Breakfast was also served in Dunbar Auditorium. I appreciate the students, the staff at MHHS and the high school kitchen staff for making a difficult situation work out in a successful



manner. I understand the Hackler cafeteria was utilized to prepare meals; thus we want to thank the Hackler staff as well. Thanks Mrs. Braunagel for modeling great leadership.

The Transportation Department also stepped up big time for us. Wes and his staff drove dangerous roads to keep an eye on the clearing and ascertaining as to when we could run our buses. When we came back our drivers had to use discretion to make sure they were operating in the safest manner possible. Many thanks to the drivers and the entire transportation department!

Please note that the SAT make-up date is tomorrow at the Junior High, the ACT make-up date has been set for January 4th at the High School. Students that registered for these tests should receive an email notification of the rescheduled tests.

I have so much respect for our administrators in this district. When high school was confronted with the possibility of being without a significant part of their facility indefinitely, Dr. Gigliotti and several administrators joined Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Blevins and Mr. McCarn to plan for the misplacement of students and staff. They worked several hours to develop a plan which was implemented successfully on December 16th. I was so proud of this team. Mr. Czanstkowski, Ms. McWilliams, Mrs. Cotter, Mr. Kincade, Mr. Mike Walker, Mr. Wes Henderson and probably others I have missed joined in to support our system. I am always talking to our principals about the fact that we are a system which must work together as opposed to several different sites only working for our individual site success. It was a wonderful moment to see how everyone had supported each other during difficult times.

Enjoy this uplifting [video](#).

Have a great holiday everyone!

Lonnie

Delainey and I will be spending Christmas together!



Friday Update From Assistant Superintendent: Leigh Anne Gigliotti, Ed.D

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Friday, December 20, 2013

Happy Holidays!



From the Gigliotti Family

Guy Berry College and Career Academy Holiday Luncheon-



GBCCA Students were treated to a holiday feast on December 19 at the First Baptist Church. The special luncheon was provided by Mr. Kincade, Mrs. Morgan, faculty and staff, and mentors. Thank you to everyone that made this event possible. Thank you to Mrs. Morgan and mentors for cooking for the students. Mr. Rob Finley was the guest speaker at the event. The holiday celebration was a wonderful way to celebrate together.



Personnel and Professional Development

Northcentral Arkansas Education Service Cooperative

JANUARY 2014 UPCOMING EVENTS

January 02: NAESC Open

January 07: NAESC Tech Plan Addendum Workday – 8:30-3:30 – Jeff Johnston

January 17: NAESC Planning for Science Fair 2014 - 9:00-11:00 – Lindsey King (207501)

January 24: NAESC AHA BLS for Healthcare Providers – 8:30-3:30 – Cindy Schaefering (207669)

January 27: NAESC Literacy Design Collaborative - @ Midland – 8:00-3:00 – L.D.C. Team

January 28: NAESC Math Design Collaborative – Day 6 Algebra - 8:30-3:30 – M.D.C. Team

January 28: NAESC Instructional Leaders Meeting – 9:00-12:00 – Mark Gipson (208277)

January 29: NAESC Teacher Center Committee Meeting – 9:00-12:00 – Mark Gipson (208278)

January 29: NAESC Math Design Collaborative – Day 6 Geometry - 8:30-3:30 – M.D.C. Team

January 29: NAESC Course Approvals – 9:00-12:00 – CIV (208106)

January 30: NAESC Literacy Design Collaborative – I.C.C. – 8:00-3:00 – L.D.C. Team

Upcoming Events:

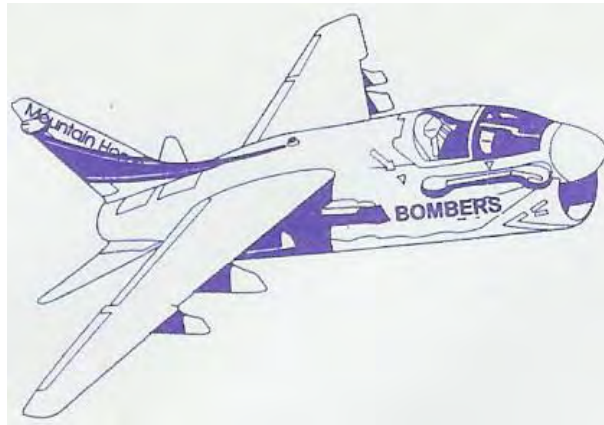
Dec. 23-January 3, NO SCHOOL

Jan. 3, 2014 – In-Service Day for Teachers

Jan. 6, 2014 – Welcome back students!

Jan. 20 – 9:00-2:00 HUB Meeting with APSRC in the MHHS Library

Jan. 20 – 3:30 – District Curriculum Meeting in the central office board room



MAINTENANCE MATTERS

Guess what Maintenance has been doing this week!!!

Almost all of our work this week as well as last weekend has had to do with the weather situation. This storm left us with water inside buildings, roof problems, canopies caving in and many hours of work for snow and ice removal.

The carpet in the library at Pinkston has been vacuumed constantly with the wet vac since the snow started early in December. This is to help dry out the carpet to keep it from forming mildew underneath. We had canopies cave in at Pinkston as well as at the Junior High and Senior High. Of course, everyone knows about the roof situation at the Senior High. As of yesterday, the basketball goals were once again 10 feet off the floor. Mr. Strider and Mike Walker spent a considerable amount of time on the phone with the steel manufacturer to make sure the roof was safe after the strain of the heavy snow. We also have roof problems at Kindergarten and Pinkston. Myers Roofing is starting today at the Kindergarten to remedy that situation.

The entire Maintenance crew along with Mike Armocido and Mike Walker spent the week plowing parking lots and sidewalks so schools could reopen. The custodians at each building along with the Maintenance crew were constantly spreading ice melt throughout the District trying to combat the ice. Over 300 50-pound bags of ice melt were used.

Several work requests that mainly had to do with plumbing situations were also completed.

We have received the Fire Marshall's inspection of all of our facilities. **Again there were no violations to the Fire Code of the City of Mountain Home in any of our buildings.** This is not only a tribute to the maintenance and custodial departments in keeping all electrical closets and custodian closets up to par, but also a tribute to all the staff in the District. Without the help of all the staff with not using extension cords or sitting items in front of the furnace, we could not achieve this perfect inspection. Thank you all.

The Maintenance Department wishes each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

December 19, 2013

TRAVELING WITH TRANSPORTATION

This first semester of the 2013-2014 school year has been a very good one in Transportation. All routes are running very smoothly with our drivers doing an excellent job. The substitute drivers have answered the call and are doing a really good job driving unfamiliar (to them) routes.

Of course, Janelle, Steve, Paul and Roger are 'holding the fort down' here in the Transportation Building. Without their help, things would not run so smoothly.

All of us here in Transportation wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Healthful and Happy New Year.

December 19, 2013

Thank you Mike Walker, Roddy Patrick, and Wes Henderson for working the grill for Christmas Brunch at MH Kindergarten!



MOUNTAIN HOME JUNIOR HIGH

MHJH WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR LOCAL ROTARY CLUB FOR PROVIDING THE “CHOICES” PROGRAM TO OUR 8TH GRADE STUDENTS

Ten local Rotary Club members provided The “Choices” Program to all 8th Grade students at MHJH on November 21st and 22nd. The Rotarians gave three hours of their time both mornings in order to present the 8th Graders great “life” information regarding the importance of education, character, work ethic, etc. The students really enjoyed hearing the information and real-life examples from the Rotarians!



The Rotary Club members that provided the “Choices” Program to 8th Grade students are pictured above.
Front Row (L-R): Brenda Nelson, Curtis Brown, Berny Tott, Jewel Pendergrass, and Sonny Delgado
Back Row (L-R): Larry Nelson, Stephen Yates, Stewart Rogers, Stewart Brunner, and Randy Swearingen

**MHJH WOULD LIKE TO THANK KING DERMATOLOGY FOR ALLOWING
MRS. AMANDA WOOTEN TO PRESENT PROPER SKIN CARE TO ALL OF
OUR 8TH GRADE STUDENTS!**

During the “Choices” Program, Amanda Wooten, from King Dermatology, provided all 8th Grade students with a program regarding proper skin care. The students asked many questions about their skin, and they were very engaged during the program provided by Mrs. Wooten.



MHJH teachers also presented important information to all 8th Grade students when the Rotary Club was providing the “Choices” Program. Mrs. Shelli Jones (left) presented the all-important topics of internet safety and protection of personal identification. Mrs. Jodi Tejcek presented extremely useful information regarding students’ 9th Grade year (Career Academy selection, credits, graduation, scholarships, etc.), as well as a short preview of what Keystone class will be like for them next year. Thanks, Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Tejcek!!



Mountain Home Public School Resource Officer, Eddie Helmert, also provided information to all 8th Grade students during the “Choices” Program. Officer Helmert gave a brief overview to the students on how his drug-dog “Bomber” was trained to search for drugs. Officer Helmert also had Bomber perform a sniff-search. The students were very impressed by Bomber’s ability to find inappropriate substances in such a short amount of time. Thanks, Officer Eddie Helmert!!



Mountain Home FFA hosted the 2013 Ozarka Sub-Area Leadership contest on Thursday, November 21st. Area FFA chapters from different schools met and performed at Dunbar Auditorium.



Mountain Home FFA Leadership Results:

Creed Speaking	1 st	Extemporaneous Speaking	1 st
Parliamentary Procedure	1 st	Public Speaking	1 st
Discussion Meet	1 st	Opening Ceremony	3 rd



CONGRATULATIONS FFA LEADERSHIP TEAMS!!!!

Ms. Kathy Lawrence's FCCLA (Family Career and Community Leaders of America) students participated in the annual Charlie Brown Thanksgiving at Mtn. Home kindergarten. The FCCLA students prepared and served the food on the menu that Charlie Brown prepared: toast, jelly beans, popcorn, and pretzels. Jr. High FCCLA members and High School FCCLA members are pictured asking kindergarten students about their Indian costumes.



Jr. High FCCLA students set tables to serve Charlie Brown's Thanksgiving dinner at MH Kindergarten.



Kindergarten student describes his Indian costume to Jr. High FCCLA students.



FCCLA member, Olivia Allen, is learning about Pilgrims from Kindergarten students during Charlie Brown's Thanksgiving. The annual event is not only lots of fun, but it is also an excellent opportunity for Jr. High students, who have been studying about the kindergarten age group in their Child Development classes, to interact personally with the kindergarten children.



The MHJH Photography Club, sponsored by Mrs. Marjorie Jones and Mrs. Tammye Quick, has completed two challenges this fall. The first was, "It's all about me." Students submitted photos that introduced them in some way. The winning photo was by Katyie Chapman. The second challenge was "Leaf it to me." The photo had to include leaves. The winning photo was submitted by Caitlyn Ferguson. Club members and teachers vote for the winning photos. Our next challenge is "Circle it!" The pictures must contain something round.



Photo by Katyie Chapman (It's All About Me)

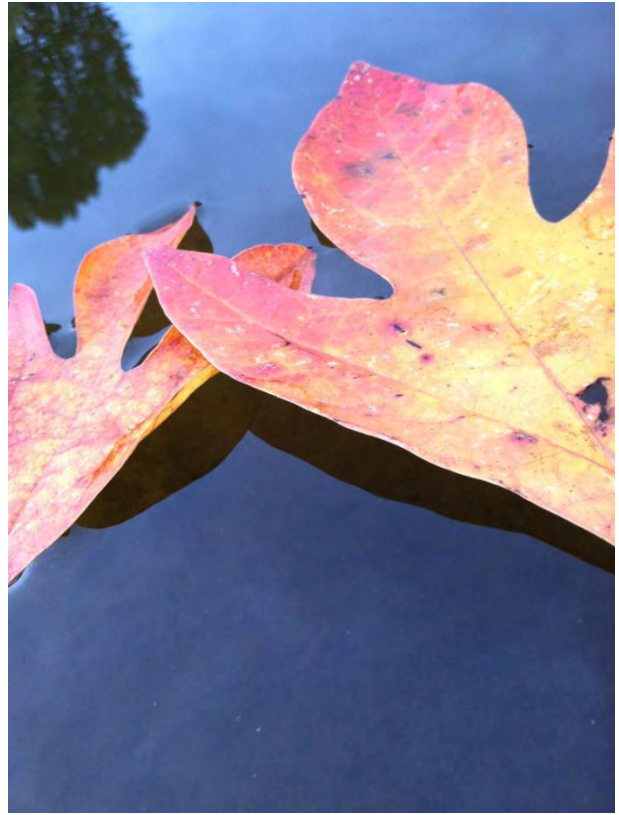


Photo by Caitlyn Ferguson (Leaf It To Me)

9th Grade students in the first semester Keystone Classes, taught by Mrs. Jodi Tejcek and Mr. Randy Barnhill, that are interested in the CAB academy went to the ASU-MH Veda Sheid Community Center and got a “behind-the-scenes” look at what it takes to put on a professional production for the community. Students were also taken on a tour of the beautiful Veda Sheid Community Center!



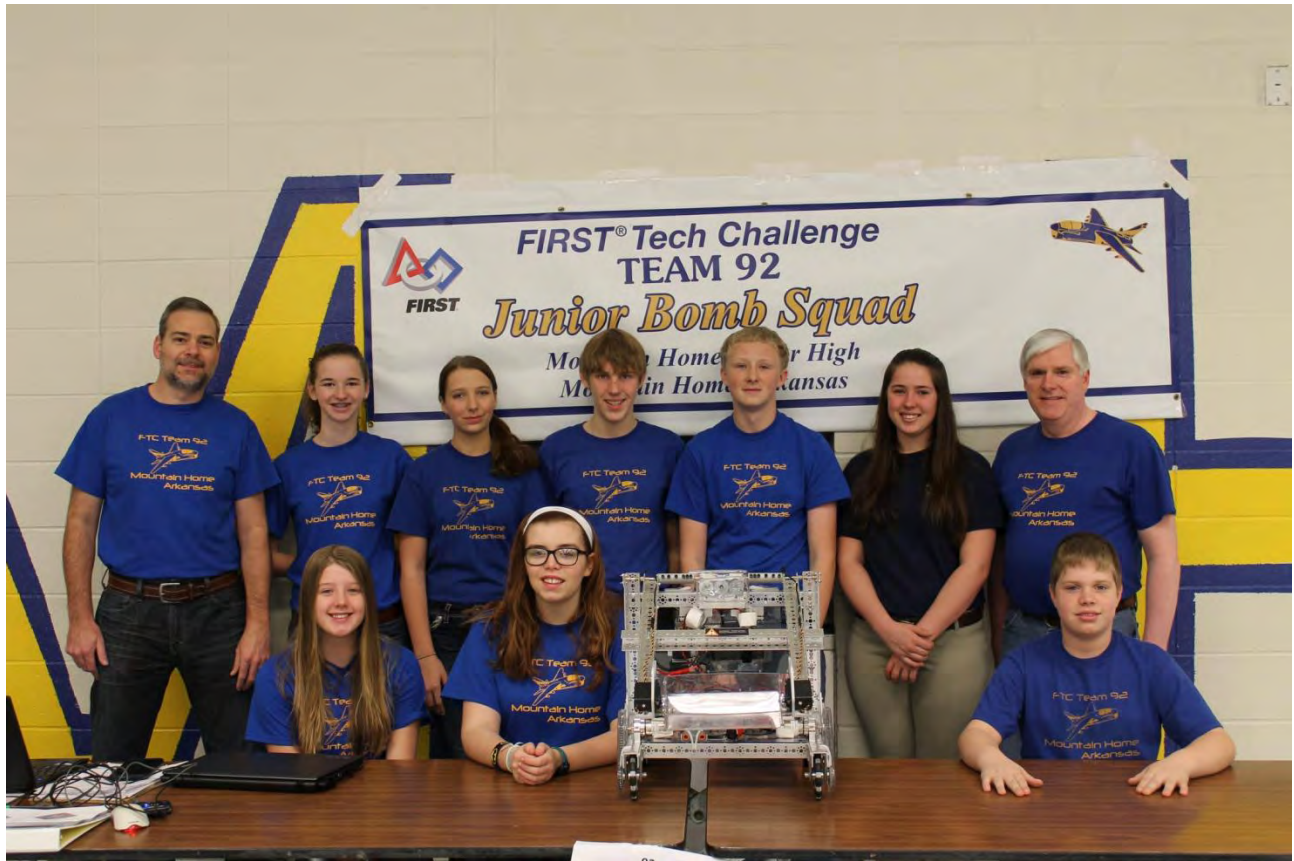
Several Mountain Home High School students spent the entire day recently to speak to 9th grade students in Mrs. Jodi Tejeck's and Mr. Randy Barnhill's Keystone classes. Our students spent the entire day asking questions about the experiences they will receive in grades 10 – 12 at the high school. We would like to thank Mrs. Dana Brown, Mrs. Brigitte Shipman, Mrs. Lindsey Blevins, and Mr. Kyle McCarn for allowing their high school students to attend school on our campus that day.



The MHJH Robotics Team (Jr. Bomb Squad) hosted their annual Robotics Competition on Saturday, December 14th. The Jr. Bomb Squad ended the seeding rounds in 5th place out of over 20 teams. The top 4 teams picked alliances for the single elimination tournament and the Jr. Bomb Squad was picked by the first seed team (Pinkston Bomb Squad Special Unit). That alliance won in the semifinals and then lost in the finals.

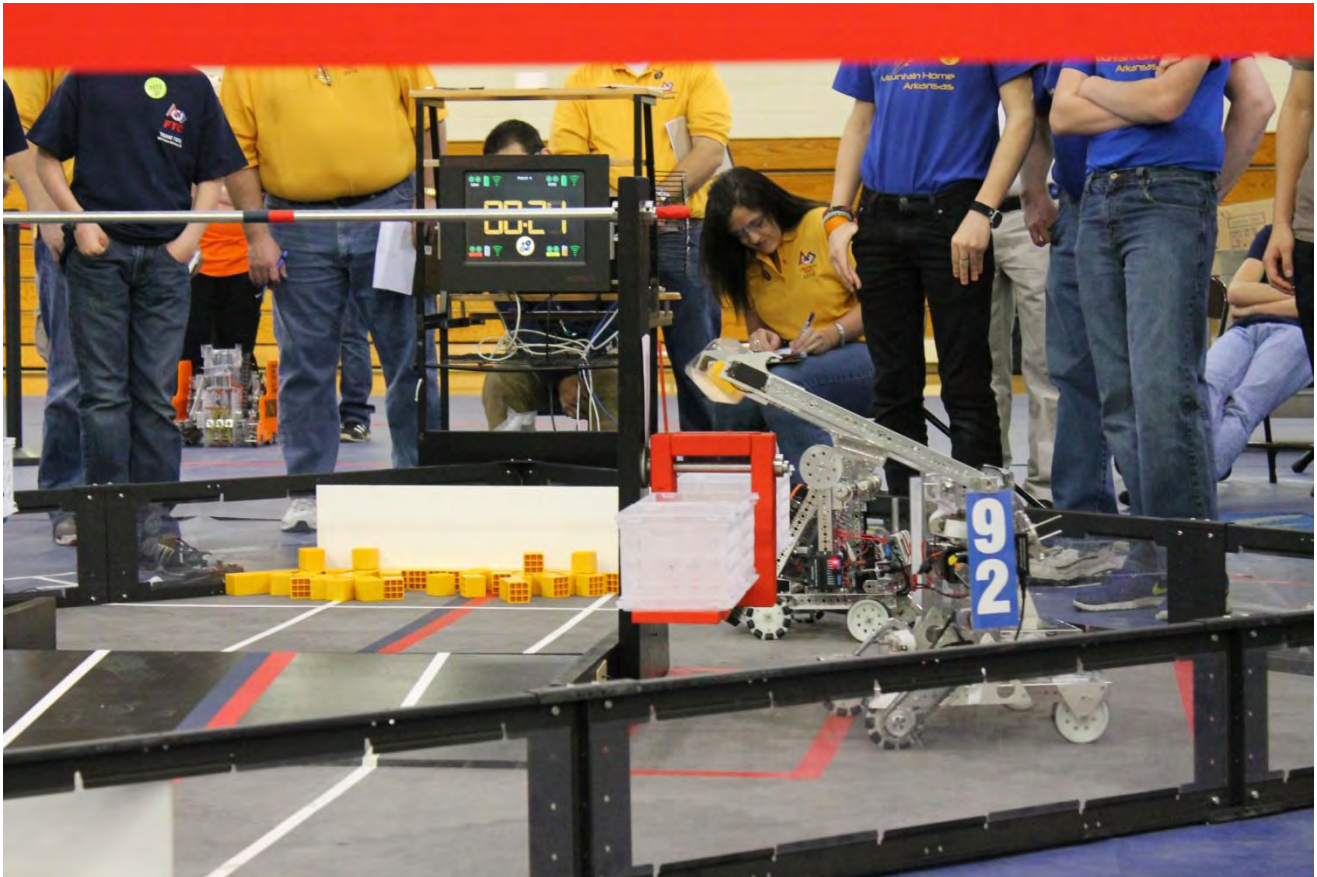
The Jr. Bomb Squad was in the running for some finalist awards, but they came up a little short. The Jr. Bomb Squad did receive a trophy and medals for being finalists in the robot competition.

EXCITING NEWS: Due to placing 3rd in the Inspire Award (the highest award at the tournament), the Jr. Bomb Squad will still be advancing to the Super-Regional Robotics Tournament in San Antonio, Texas. The Super-Regional Tournament is the last weekend in February. Congratulation on hosting another very successful robotics tournament!
GOOD LUCK TO THE JR. BOMB SQUAD AT THE SUPER-REGIONAL ROBOTICS TOURNAMENT!



Front Row (L – R): Holly Simpson, Rowan Laidler, and Caleb Jenkins

Back Row (L-R): Coach Brian Plumlee (Baxter Mentor), Emma Gibson, Hannah Plumlee, Brady Villiger, Logan Redding, Courtney Crawford (High School Mentor), and Mr. Andy Marts (Baxter Mentor)



Students in the 8th grade science classes of Mr. Randy Barnhill, Mrs. Harvie Beaver, and Mrs. Stephanie Demenet completed a unit on the structure of leaves recently. These teachers planned this lesson as part of the overall 8th Grade integrated project called The Arkansas Vacations Project. The students were classifying the leaves people could expect to see at the state parks across Arkansas.



Students in Mrs. Whitney Hickman’s Math 8 classes had the opportunity to have Mr. Brad Morris as a guest teacher for part of their class this week. Mrs. Hickman and Mr. Morris are in the middle of a Math/Physical Education integration regarding statistics from athletic performance. Relevant charts and graphs were also constructed based on the athletic performance data.



Several members of the MHJH Student Council, sponsored by Mrs. Nicole Dixon, spent some time after school this week spreading Christmas cheer at a local nursing home. MHJH really appreciates our hard-working and giving Student Council!

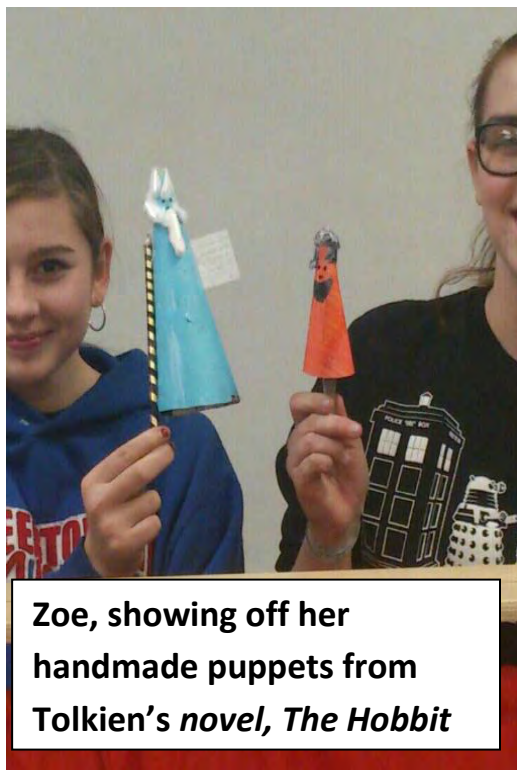


Front Row (L-R): Kori Shaufler, Ana Helmert, Kylie Brashears, and Camryn Mann
Back Row (L-R): Skyler Law, Hunt Nosari, Chloe Freeland, Landry Baugh, and Amber Marler

Mrs. Hickey's eighth graders selected one of the following assessments involving the **setting** of **J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit***, and **Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer***: write/perform scene; write/perform puppet show; create an artistic portrayal; film a movie; present research; "other" (student suggested/teacher approved). Each of the assessment choices was selected! 😊



"Backstage", preparing for student written and directed puppet show. 😊

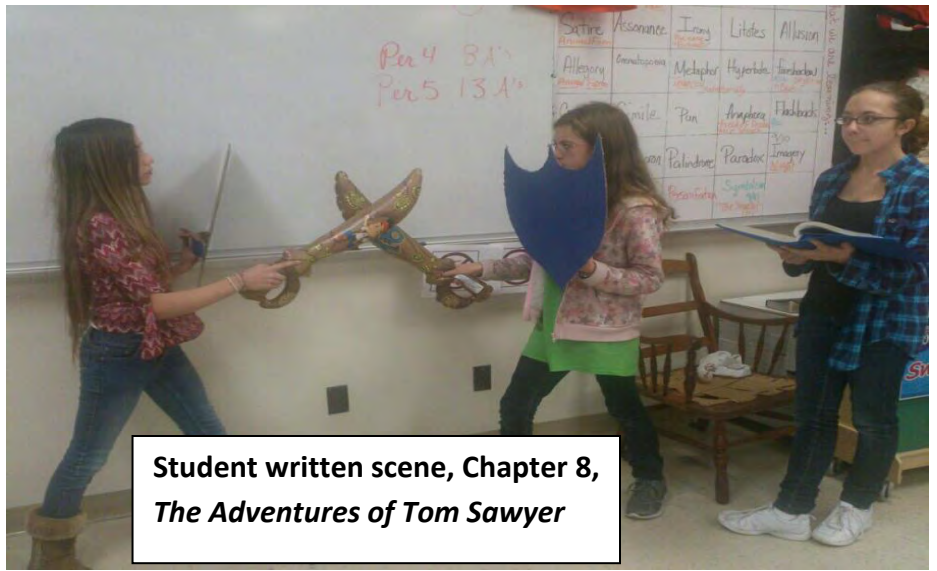


Zoe, showing off her handmade puppets from Tolkien's novel, *The Hobbit*

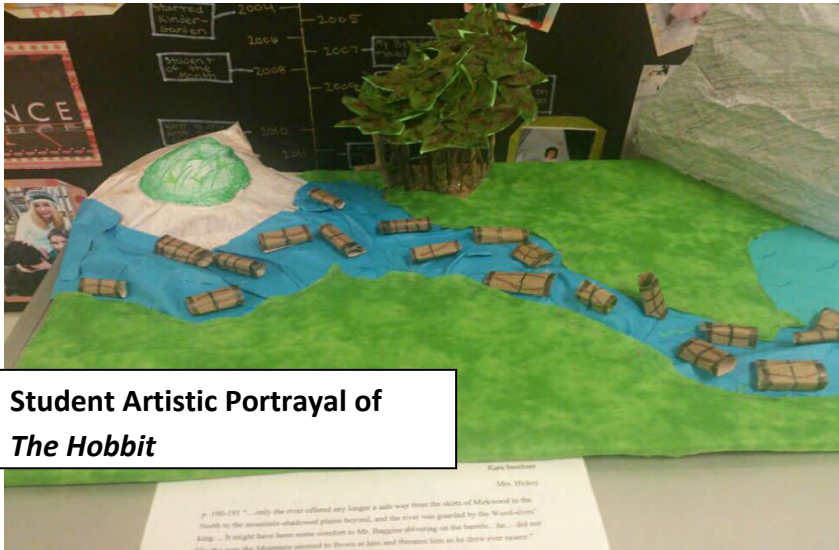


Puppeteers taking their bow!

Douglas, our resident Tolkien guru, shares research and fields unprepared questions, like a pro!



Student written scene, Chapter 8, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*



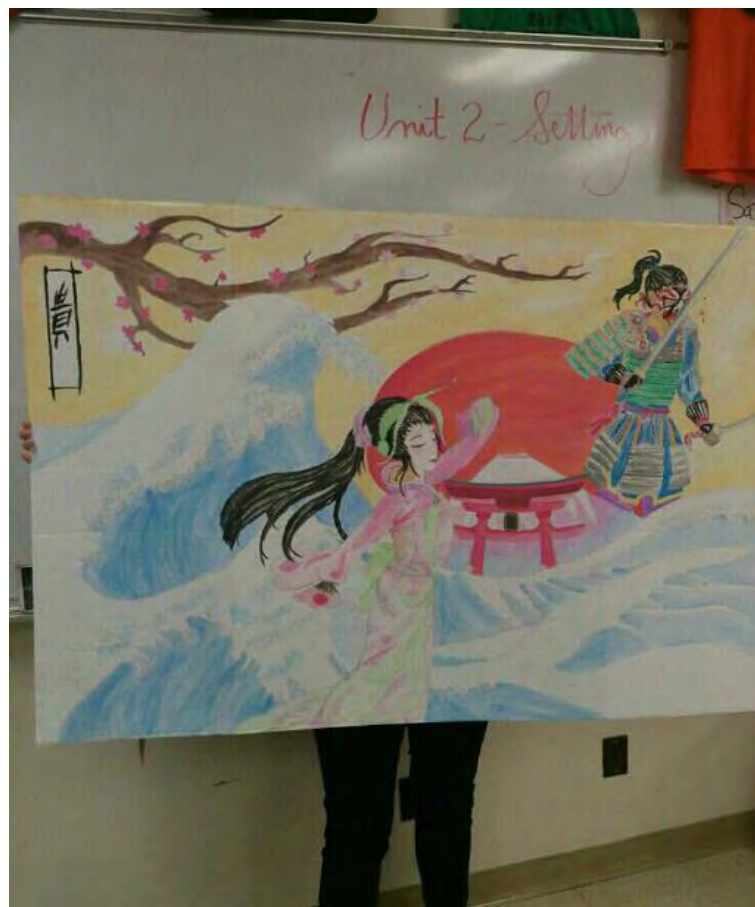
Student Artistic Portrayal of *The Hobbit*



Student Artistic Portrayal of *The Hobbit*

Mrs. Hickey's **ninth grade speech** students are being trained to be teachers. They were required to teach a fifteen minute lesson about HONOR, and create educational activities for the class to do. We were honored to have Mrs. Butler attend one of the presentations.





More 12 days of Christmas pictures...

Cristy Majors-



More 12 days of Christmas pictures...

Mr. Rucker's door



Mrs. Gonten's door-



Ms. Halsted's door-



Amanda Cooley's door



More 12 days of Christmas pictures...



Susan Giovanini's door-

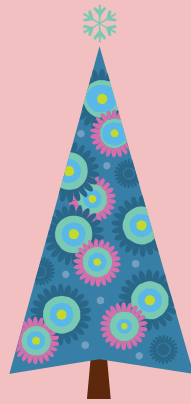
Dec. 20, 2013

MHHS CAREER ACADEMIES

Congratulations!



High school teachers Jennifer Seaman and Linda Thrasher are now National Board Certified Teachers.



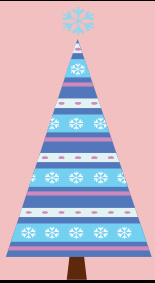
Christmas Break is December 23rd through January 3rd. Students return to school on Monday, January 6th.



2014 President of the Arkansas Library Association



Devona Pendergrass was installed as the 2014 President of the Arkansas Library Association which is the Arkansas chapter of the American Library Association. The mission of the chapter is to promote library service and the profession of librarianship in the State of Arkansas. Members in the association are librarians and paraprofessionals in all Arkansas Libraries including school, public, college, reference, technical and special libraries. We are very proud of Devona! Congratulations!



MHHS Second Quarter Final Exam Schedule

January 16 – Even Day Finals

January 17 – Odd Day Finals

January 23 – Report Cards out to Students

MHHS FFA Students Compete in the AJCA Thanksgiving Classic

Bodie Cotter and James Daniel Brown recently participated in the Arkansas Junior Cattleman's Association Thanksgiving Classic in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Bodie received Reserve Grand Champion Shorthorn Plus Heifer.

James Daniel won Grand Champion with his Charlois Heifer.



James Daniel won Grand Champion with his Charlois Heifer—Lily.

MHHS FFA Student Competes in Oklahoma AGR Winter Bonanza

On Saturday, December 14, 2013 James Daniel Brown competed in the Alpha Gamma Rho Winter Bonanza – two ring show – with his Prospect Limi Steer, Merle and Progress Shorthorn Steer, Rojo. For his Prospect Limi Steer, in Ring One, he received Reserve Champion and in Ring Two, he received Grand Champion. For his Progress Shorthorn Steer, in Ring One he received Reserve Champion and in Ring Two he received Grand Champion.

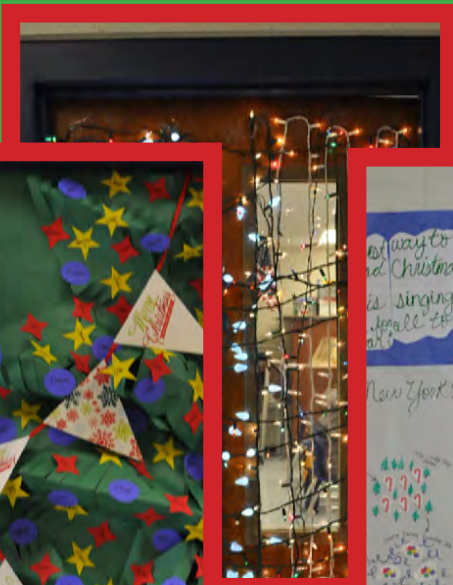


James Daniel Brown and Merle as Grand Champion.



James Daniel Brown and Rojo as Grand Champion.

MHHS has holiday spirit!



**Congratulations to
Mrs. Czanstkowski and
the MHHS Athletic Office
for winning
Mr. McCarn's
door decorating contest!**





GBCCA students & faculty celebrate the season with mentors!



Guy Berry College and Career Academy students and faculty were treated to a wonderful holiday banquet by our mentors and friends of the school..

Rob Finley, of Auto Services, spoke to the students about the importance of setting goals and following through on their aspirations. Mr. Finley is mentoring some of our graduating seniors and helping them make life plans for their future.



NELSON-WILKS-HERRON

Christmas at NWH



Mr. Oxford—The Grinch



He knows who's been Naughty & Nice!



Gingerbread Kids



Gingerbread Houses





Zip-lining Elves



Santas & Reindeers

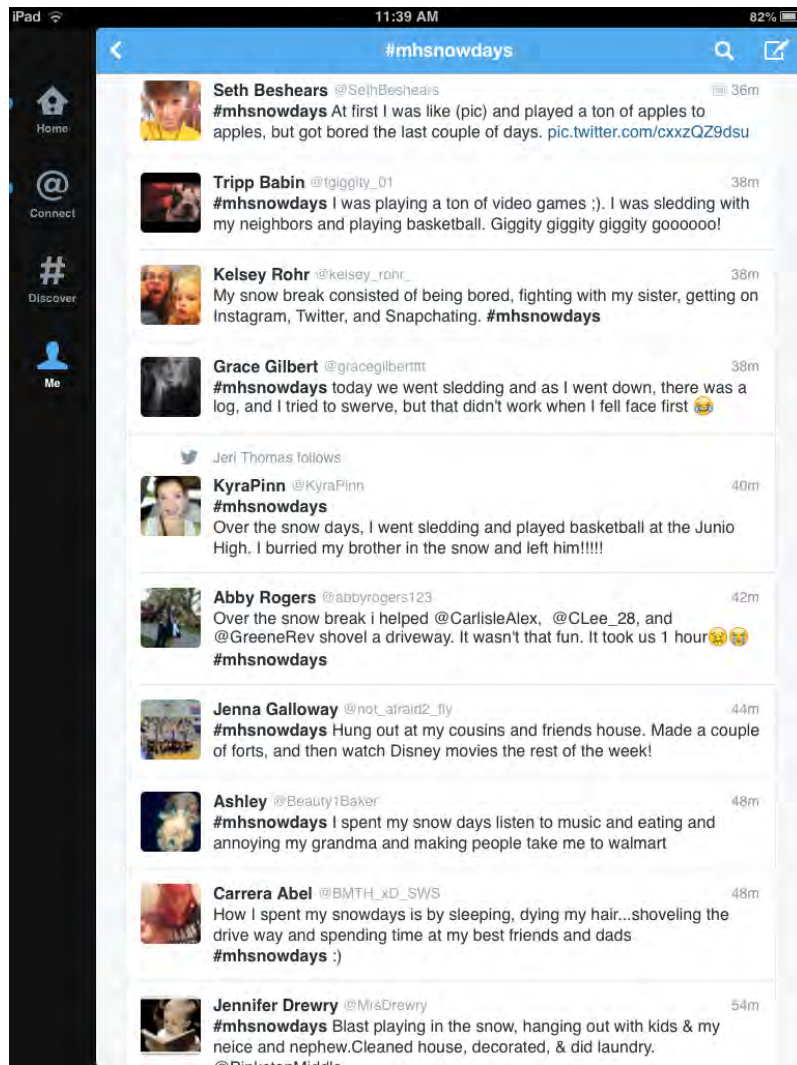
Pinkston Middle School



Week ending 12.20.13

Students in Mr. Keith Newsom's 7th grade health class were visited by Mr. Jeff Quick from the Food Bank of North Central Arkansas. Students in Coach Newsom's class participated in the school wide One Million Meals food drive, but then went above and beyond to collect monetary donations for additional Thanksgiving Day meals for those in need. Mr. Quick thanked the students for their efforts. He then discussed different topics with them such as reading can labels, making informed decisions about food purchases, and helped students think through different ways of eating healthy. Thank you to Mr. Quick and Coach Newsom for providing this opportunity to our kids. We all extend a special thank you to the kids that wanted to go above and beyond to help others in need. Thank you !





Technology Bell Ringer!!!!

Students from Mrs. Drewry's, Mrs. Jones's and Mr. Ethridge's classes shared snow day memories through the use of social media. They were required to limit their responses to 140 characters to "tweet" about their snow day experiences. Those without a Twitter account were able to participate in the conversation with their "tweet" posted in the hall.

Teacher Professional Development

Teachers spent November 25 and 26 in professional development sessions. Throughout the sessions teachers discussed and evaluated various video clips of teachers through the TESS training modules, read and presented current journal articles, and considered perseverance and “grit” as key factors of student learning. Teachers also discussed our district belief statements and applied them to their classrooms and teaching practices.

Our students are fortunate to have such wonderful teachers working with them each day!



Pinkston FCCLA students gathered donations of coffee cups and hot chocolate. These students collected over 100 cups and assembled them all in preparation for delivery. We are delivering these warm treats to area nursing home on Friday evening.



Mrs. Harper's choir concert at Dunbar was beautiful.



Pictured are the winners of the 6th grade ELK's Americanism essay contest, members of the ELKS #1714, 6th grade social studies teachers Ms. Schaufler and Mrs. Ethridge, and Mrs. Dewey, assistant principal. Over 200 essays were entered by 6th graders at Pinkston with the theme "What Veteran's Day Means to Me". The **four winners' essays will be sent on to the state competition.** CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS and THANK YOU ELKS #1714.

STUDENTS IN PINKSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL BEGINNER BAND PROVIDED A CHRISTMAS SHOWCASE OF THE SKILLS THEY HAVE BEEN LEARNING. OVER 150 STUDENTS SHOWCASED WHAT THEY HAD LEARNED TO PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS. WAY TO GO BEGINNER BAND STUDENTS AND TEACHERS MS. BRYANT, MRS. CHENTNIK, AND MR. DAVIS





Katie Mc. 6th

Devyn S. 7th

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!



Pinkston Middle School @Pinkstonmiddle
EAST at Pinkston @AdunavanEast
7th Grade Promise @deniselauerman
Pinkston Choir @Pinkstonchoir
DARE @mandeelove32
Pinkston Media Center @pmslibrary12

Upcoming Events for Pinkston Middle:

School Board meeting – Choir sings – December 19

APSRC

APSRC newsletter on informing parents about Common Core: [Click here to read this newsletter.](#)

Our next Huddle Meeting will be on January 20th at the Central Office Board Room. This Huddle meeting's focus will be on ELA.



classworks

Pictured above are Debra Synatschk (left) and Cheryl Townsend (right). Cheryl and Debra spend the day on December 17th talking to champions and principals to assess the needs of our district. Cheryl is our new implementation manager for classworks and will be working closely with your champions to better assist you in testing and retrieving reports for your students. She has a background in technology both in teaching and implementation of programs. I think you will all enjoy working with her. TBA – 2 meetings in January 2014 for champions and novice users.

Below is an example of one way that formative assessment can be used. In Carie O'Brien's classroom at Guy Berry, this is always posted at the front of the room. Students individually self assess their own understanding of a concept and based on this individualized student feedback, Carie knows how to proceed in teaching the following day. Way to Go Mrs. O'Brien!!!!

