

Editor's Note: We are proud to once again offer a very special edition of Harrisonville Highlights. This edition features a partnership between the Harrisonville Chamber of Commerce, Cass Regional Medical Center, the City, the library, and the Historical Society. In addition to news from the City on pages 10-111, page 12 includes a Community Calendar of Events for the winter. We hope you enjoy this expanded edition and we appreciate the relationship with our partners.

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HARRISONVILLE *Highlights*

A Harrisonville Schools Publication
Fall 2014

School attendance focus of Be Here campaign

Last year, the Harrisonville School District launched an attendance campaign to provide information to parents, students, and the community about the importance of on time, daily school attendance. The "Be Here" campaign was a four-week project, but the emphasis on attendance continued throughout the year.

School attendance can have a major impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

In addition, the state measures the district's attendance for accreditation purposes by looking at the percent of students who are here 90% of the time. The district's attendance improved from 84.6% of students at school 90% of the time during the 2012-13 year to 88.1% of students who were at school 90% of the time during the 2013-14 school year.

This year's attendance campaign is a continuation of the Be Here

project, but this year's emphasis is on providing students and parents information intended to help keep students healthy. The district knows that sickness is the main reason for missing school, so the "Be Here. Be Healthy" campaign will focus on ways to ensure children stay healthy.

The first week of the initiative stressed general hygiene such as handwashing, proper sneezing/cough technique, sharing of personal items, and dressing appropriately.

The second week ran concurrently with Red Ribbon Week and focused on healthy habits such as exercise, drinking plenty of water, and being drug free.

Week 3's focus is dental hygiene and eye care while the final week will center on healthy eating and getting plenty of sleep.

The district is working with local partners - the Cass County Health Department, the MU Extension Office, and Cass Regional Medical Center - to provide parents with information and resources.

Parents are receiving weekly



emails that focus on one area of our "Be Here. Be Healthy." campaign. The district is also posting tips & information on social media. All information is available on a special website - www.harrisonvilleschools.org/behere.

Posters at the elementary schools feature Wil'e Wildcat working to stay healthy by getting proper sleep, eating healthy, flossing his teeth, and washing his hands.

The campaign will wrap up with an "All In" Day on November 12. The goal of that day is to have 100% attendance by students and staff.

Administrative Offices

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380-2727

Harrisonville High School

1504 E. Elm • 380-3273
Grades 9-12
Andy Campbell, Principal - ext. 6222

Cass Career Center

1600 E. Elm • 380-3253
Grades 9-Post-Secondary
Gina Smith, Director - ext. 7222

Harrisonville Middle School

601 S. Highland • 380-7654
Grades 6-8
Chris Grantham, Principal - ext. 5222

McEowen Elementary School

1901 S. Halsey • 380-4545
Grades 4-5
Dan Erholtz, Principal - ext. 4222

Harrisonville Elementary School

101 Meghan Drive • 380-4131
Grades 1-3
Jauna Weber, Principal - ext. 3222

Early Childhood Center

500 Polar Lane • 380-4421
Grades Preschool - Kindergarten
Becky Campbell, Principal - ext. 2222



From the Desk of the Superintendent

District reviews Comprehensive School Improvement Plan



Three years ago, we gathered feedback from community members regarding the direction of our school district. Staff members then worked on updating our Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) which drives decision-making in our district. In April 2012, our Board of Education approved the plan. I wanted to use this opportunity to give our patrons an update on our progress on each of these goals.

1. Establish a guaranteed and viable curriculum in all content areas. The work on this goal has been in reviewing the Missouri Learning Standards and identifying essential standards for our district. Teachers meet with Assistant Superintendent of Academic and Students Services Beth Mulvey periodically to review and compare the state and district standards. During the last year, Mrs. Mulvey has worked with teachers to define what it means for a student to be proficient for each standard. This work will continue across the content areas.

2. Implementation of the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) model. The focus two years ago was to make sure we had collaboration time built into the schedule so our teachers could meet with job-alike teachers to have discussions around

instructional practices and student achievement. Time has been set aside for this to happen in each school. The challenge continues to be supporting those teachers who are the only ones who teach a content in a school such as our specials teachers at the elementary level and elective teachers at the secondary level.

3. Teachers will utilize research-based literacy instructional practices. Our K-8 teachers use Reader's Workshop and Writer's Workshop. In K-2, teachers are also using a program called Pathways to help our students with literacy and comprehension. Ongoing training has been provided for teachers and we continue to look for ways to best support our teachers as they use these programs in the classroom. These models provide our teachers the chance to meet students at their level and help them grow as readers and writers.

4. We will utilize differentiated, research-based math instructional practices. In the K-5 classrooms, our teachers have had training in implementing a math program we adopted five years ago called Math in Focus. This curriculum challenges our students to think critically. At the secondary level, teachers have had the chance to attend out-of-district training in math teaching practices, as well as have discussions through their in-district curriculum meetings.

5. Teachers will use a common philosophy of grading and assessment. At our middle school, teachers have been using the Standards-Based

(referenced) Grading and Assessment model for the past three years. In this model, teachers give students feedback about their proficiency on the district-defined learning standards. Teachers have been working with administration to clearly define expected levels of performance in relation to the standards through curriculum and assessment alignment. Other schools in the district are working to define and align district standards and assessments with expected levels of performance as they move forward with research-based, best practices.

6. Schools will have support in place for students who are struggling. Bright Futures Harrisonville was started three years ago. It has provided many opportunities for our community to support our students (read more on page 3). Each school also has a designated time each day to provide support for their students who are struggling academically. At the elementary levels, this is referred to as Wildcat Time, while at HHS, this occurs during Advisory.

7. Programs across the district will be evaluated. District programs are on a two-year rotation for in-depth review. During this evaluation, we look at data that may be from the past five years to determine if changes need to be made to the program. Examples of district programs that are part of this review cycle include early childhood education, career and technical, gifted education, etc.

8. Fully implement a digital device model to promote academic

achievement. This year, we provided all of our high school students with MacBook Air laptop computers (see story page 8). Two years of review and discussion led to the leasing of the computers. Teachers have been provided professional development and that support continues. At the middle school, Chromebook carts are available for teachers to use within their classrooms. In grades 3-5, teachers have three or more Chromebooks available for students in their classroom. At the K-2 level, they have iPads available for students. Thanks to the Harrisonville Public School Foundation for their grant of almost \$20,000 to help with the purchase of iPads and Chromebooks for our students in grades K-8.

Now that we've worked on these goals for nearly three years, it's time to review. I plan to hold a meeting in the coming weeks to look at the goals, what we've accomplished, and where we want to go. If you have areas you would like for us to look at in this process, don't hesitate to contact me with your ideas.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bryan McDonald
Superintendent
bryan.mcdonald
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380-2727, ext. 1222



Bright Futures encourages pledge to give 42

Bright Futures Harrisonville kicked off its third year with a breakfast event at the Harrisonville Community Center in August. The event included speakers representing each of the partnership areas - Bill Kirkemo, pastor of the Nazarene Church, faith-based partner; Tina Graef, Community Bank of Harrisonville, business partner; Paige Welhoff, parent partner; Jauna Weber, HES principal, school partner; and a video by Kevin Tieman representing the social/human services partner.

The theme for the 2014-15 school year was the focus of the event. The theme is "42 - 4 our Children, 2 ensure Bright Futures." Bright Futures is asking for everyone to pledge to give 42 each month to the initiative. You can give 42 minutes to volunteering with the backpack program or 42 minutes to cleaning out your attic to find that musical instrument to donate to the Katie Rios Instrument Closet; you can give \$42 to support the Just 4 Me summer food program; you can donate 42 pencils or 42 pairs of underwear to the Cats Basement. A list of 42 ideas for giving 42 can be found at www.harrisonvilleschools.org/brightfutures

The breakfast speakers each addressed ways in which they have given 42 and why they choose to be a part of Bright Futures. Bright Futures Chair Carrie Caruthers shared this statistic... People who volunteer are 42% more likely to say they are very happy than people who don't volunteer.

After picking the theme of 42, Bright Futures also discovered the following...

- 42 degrees is the angle at which light must reflect off water in order to create a rainbow.
- 42 is the number that Jackie

42 ensure Bright Futures

Robinson wore and as 4th grade student, Kale Weber told his mom, "you know mom, he was a pioneer for others."

- 42 is the length of the right arm of the Statue of Liberty, a monument that embodies hope and an opportunity for a better life.
- 42% was the district percentage for the free & reduced lunch program at the end of last year.

During the first two months of the initiative, many people have given their 42 to Bright Futures. Some examples include two second graders who gave more than 42 minutes on a day off of school to help in the Cats Basement (see photo); a donor who dropped off 42 cans of soup for the Food 4 Thought backpack program; a donor who gave \$210 to Bright Futures representing 42 fast food lunches at about \$5/each that she didn't need to eat; volunteers who are giving more than 42 each week to help with the Middle School After-School program; and community members who have joined one of the building-level Bright Futures Councils which meet monthly.

Bright Futures Harrisonville, which began during the 2012-13 school year, strives to help students achieve success by matching student needs with resources through partnerships between the schools and the community. Those partnership areas include faith-based, social/human services, businesses, and parents and volunteers are asked to give of their "time, talent, and treasure" to help children.

The Bright Futures initiative goals are to build relationships, provide for individual needs, and ensure every child has the tools they need to be successful students who in turn become productive and self-sustaining citizens, loving parents, responsible neighbors, and outstanding employees.

Bright Futures strives to meet individual student's basic needs using Facebook as a rapid response system. The goal is to meet any student's need within 24 hours. To become a fan, go to www.facebook.com/BrightFuturesHarrisonville

Some of the Bright Futures current programs include the Back-to-School Fair, providing school sup-

plies, clothing, shoes, hygiene items, and haircuts; the Cats Basement, a resource area with clothing, shoes, school supplies, hygiene items, etc; the Food 4 Thought backpack program which provides two days of meals for the weekend; the Prom Closet, an event open to all to provide prom attire at greatly reduced prices; the Make-A-Cake for Kids program through which volunteer bakers create personalized birthday cakes for children; the Blue Barrel project, donation bins around the community to collect needed items such as classroom snacks, school supplies, and books; the 1,000 Book Club (read more on page 5), and the Adopt-a-Family Holiday program.

To learn more about Bright Futures, go to www.harrisonvilleschools.org/brightfutures or contact them at brightfutures@harrisonvilleschools.org or 380-2727, ext. 1224.



Harrisonville Elementary School second graders Kaylee Gordon and Taylor Jennings gave two hours of their day off school in September volunteering at the Cats Basement with Kaylee's mom. This is just one example of the ways in which people are giving #My42 to Bright Futures.



District celebrates first quarter student accomplishments

- The Harrisonville School District announced positive results on its performance and accreditation status. Harrisonville achieved 129.5 out of 140 total points, for a 92.5 percent score, on its Annual Performance Report (APR). This is an increase from the 116.5 points (83.2 percent) the District received in 2013. The APR is used to determine a school district's accreditation. The ratings system is based on a number of factors including standardized test scores, attendance, graduation rates, subgroup performance and college placement.
- Harrisonville High School students' composite score on the ACT rose this year to 22.1 - an increase of more than half a percentage point from the 2013 score of 21.5. The state composite score for the year was 21.8. HHS students scored above state averages and increased scores in three of the four areas test. One hundred thirty-seven HHS students took the ACT last year - the most in five years.
- Congratulations to HHS vocalists John Kusmec, Reagan Holden, & Dakota Mathew who were selected for All-State Choir in mid-October! The students were eligible for All-State after making the All-District Choir. Additional All-District Choir members from HHS were Trish Price, Brooke Rogers, Tucker Quinn, Connor Tracy, Zach England, and Zac Ross. 11-12 Women's Honor Choir honorees were Abbie

Doerhoff, Tanis Ham, Kylie Knox, and Hannah Gibler.

- Four Harrisonville High School students were a part of Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler's inaugural Youth Leadership Summit at State Fair Community College on October 9. Those students included Douglas Croy, Anna DeVenney, John Kusmec, and Bethany Travis who were chosen by the administration to take part in the event. They were among over 200 students from 48 high schools.
- Harrisonville Early Childhood Center staff members were the recipients of \$50 Walmart gift cards as part of the Teacher Rewards program. The building was selected for the honor by the Transportation Department at Wal-Mart Distribution Center. Representatives from the Distribution Center visited ECC to hold the drawing for 20 \$50 gift cards.
- Congratulations to the Harrisonville High School Students of the Month for September and October - Douglas Croy, Anna DeVenney, Aaron Laughlin & Kathryn Yoder!
- The Royal Regiment Marching Band earned multiple awards at their first competition of the year in Blue Springs. The band earned first place in Class 4 field show competition and received the award for outstanding music, outstanding marching, outstanding general effect, outstanding color guard, outstanding drumline, and outstanding drum majors, and Ethan Reece was awarded the out-

standing soloist. At the Ozarko Marching Festival, the band earned first in their class and qualified for finals where they earned fourth.

- In their first outing of the year, the Harrisonville High School Speech and Debate team (pictured above) brought home the Sweepstakes Award from the Belton Tournament in early October. The Sweepstakes Award is given to the team scoring the most points based on the number of students who qualify for finals. Speech and debate tournaments are divided into two levels of competition - novice and varsity. Those HHS students earning places in the novice division were Troy Little, 1st place; Wyatt Maxwell, 2nd place; Matt Stanwix, 4th place; Abby McDonald, 6th place; and Bailey Woolsey, 8th place. The varsity team members earning top honors were Dylan Johnson, 3rd place; Garret Lukenbill, 7th place; Suzzie Gaines; 8th place; and Chelsey Gaines, 9th place.

- Congratulations to Bethany Travis & Becky Freeman who took second place at District Tennis in Doubles!
- Congratulations to the Wildcat soccer team on being named Fox 4 Team of the Week at the end of September (photo on left) and winning the Smithville, Oak Park, and Smith Cotton Tournaments!
- Congratulations to 2014 HHS Homecoming King & Queen Brice Renner & Alex Holden! Runners-up were Cole Welhoff & Melissa



Watson.

- Over 200 Harrisonville High School students were honored for their academic achievement at an assembly at the end of August. The Excellence in Academics Assembly recognized students who earned an academic letter and those who earned the Excellence in Academics medallion during the 2013-14 school year. The assembly was co-sponsored by the Harrisonville Public School Foundation and the HHS Academic Booster Club. The daytime assembly was attended by the entire HHS student body, parents, and community members.
- Congratulations to the McEowen students who completed the Summer Reading Challenge! The students were challenged to read 1500 minutes over the summer either by themselves or with someone. Fifty-one students and nine staff members met the challenge and enjoyed a pizza party during the first week of school.
- Harrisonville Early Childhood Center, Harrisonville Elementary School, and McEowen Elementary School recognized monthly award winners at assemblies in September and October. To read about those winners, visit the building pages on the district website

www.harrisonvilleschools.org



Fall 2014

www.harrisonvilleschools.org



Community invited to performances, holiday events

HHS presents Beauty & the Beast

The Harrisonville High School Drama Department will present Beauty and the Beast. The show will be performed November 20-22 at 7 p.m. and November 23 at 2 p.m. at the HHS Performing Arts Center. Advanced tickets are \$5 each with children three and under free. Tickets at the door are \$7. Ticket reservations can be made online at www.harrisonvilleschools.org

Senior Citizens Thanksgiving Banquet

Local senior citizens are invited to the annual Senior Citizens' Thanksgiving Banquet on November 24, 2014 hosted by the Harrisonville High School Student Council.

The banquet will take place in the HHS gymnasium beginning at

5:30 p.m. After the traditional Thanksgiving dinner, entertainment will be provided by the HHS Jazz band and the show choir, Music Makers.

There is no RSVP needed for this event.

Transportation will be provided for those who need it. Contact Cheryl Osborne at 380-3273, ext. 6222. The deadline for reserving transportation is Wednesday, November 19.

Local businesses and community members make this event possible. Food or monetary donations are being accepted. Checks should be made payable to HHS Student Council, 1504 E. Elm, Harrisonville, MO 64701. If you have questions, contact Allison Willson at 380-3273, ext. 6834 or allison.willson@harrisonvilleschools.org

Wildcat Basketball Tip-Off Bonanza

The Wildcat Basketball teams will host a Kick-Off Bonanza on Saturday, December 6 at HHS. The event will include a Tip Off Carnival for kids from 5-10 p.m. with game tickets for 25 cents; a silent auction with sports memorabilia, vacation items, and more; a 3-on-3 tournament; a free chili supper from 5-10 p.m.; vendor booths for holiday shopping from 3-10 p.m.; and an alumni basketball game at 8 p.m.

Music Concerts

Winter concerts will be presented by HHS and HMS choirs and bands in December. All concerts will be at 7 p.m. in the Harrisonville High School Performing Arts Center, 1504 E. Elm and are free.

The HMS band concert is Mon-

day, December 8.

The HHS band concert is December 9.

The HMS and HHS choirs will hold a joint concert and it is Thursday, December 11.

Show Choir Festival

Harrisonville High School will host the annual Show Choir Festival on Saturday, February 14 in the Performing Arts Center. This is an all-day event which begins at 8:00 a.m. Traditionally, 18-20 show choirs from around the State have participated.

Admission is \$10 for adults 12 and over, senior citizens are \$8, children 5-11 are \$5, children 4 and under are free. All proceeds benefit the Blue Note Boosters.

ECC launches 1,000 Book Club

Harrisonville Early Childhood Center has launched a new initiative aimed at encouraging and instilling a love of reading even before children begin kindergarten.

The 1,000 Book Club is a reading program that provides, on loan, books for families to read together with incentives along the way to reaching 1,000 books read by the end of kindergarten. It is a free program open to all families with children ages 2-5.

Research has shown that the single most important thing that a parent can do to help their child acquire language, prepare their child for school, and instill a love of learning in their child, is to read to them.

The 1,000 Book Club concept developed in the ECC Bright Future building council. The program was made possible through the efforts of many community members led by ECC library media specialist Jodi Fischer.

The book bag holder was built by Eagle Scout Jacob Murray with funds donated by generous community members, the books were donated by community members, the bags

purchased with grant money from the United Way, the logo and artwork were created by a volunteer, and additional books and prizes were funded by a Harrisonville Public School Foundation teacher grant. Finally, volunteers worked to put the bags together.

During a kick-off event in early October, 50 children signed up for the program and checked out their first set of books.

To enroll in the program, go to www.harrisonvilleschools.org/1000bookclub and click on Enrollment Form. For more information, call 380-4421 or email Jodi Fischer at jodi.fischer@harrisonvilleschools.org





Teacher grants provide learning opportunities

Teachers and students in the Harrisonville School District recently received nearly \$1,800 in grants from the Harrisonville Public School Foundation.

Throughout the eleven years of the teacher grant program, nearly \$60,000 has been presented to teachers. The goal of the program is to enhance the education of Harrisonville students by encouraging and recognizing new educational approaches and concepts that are not currently funded by the district.

The grants were awarded in a surprise squad format with Foundation trustees surprising the teachers in their classrooms and presenting them with a check.

Teacher grants were awarded to the following:

- Harrisonville High School Communication Arts teacher Jennifer Vellenga for a subscription to an online, interactive tool for students to use to create presentations.
- Harrisonville High School Special Education teacher Carol Cunningham for funds to create personal reading nooks in her classroom

to promote silent reading.

- Harrisonville Elementary School counselor Brian Graber for a counseling program to use with second grade students which is an extension of a program used in kindergarten and first grade.
- McEowen Elementary School fourth grade teacher Missy Eddleman for a subscription to Brain Pop, a web-based program to teach/introduce new topics in all content areas.
- Harrisonville Early Childhood kindergarten teacher Rebecca Shipley for funds to purchase iPad apps for all kindergarten teachers to help supplement and enrich the learning process in the areas of number sense, math, reading, letter recognition, writing and science.

The Harrisonville Public School Foundation is a not-for-profit organization established to support the educational activities and programs of the Harrisonville School District. To learn more about the Foundation, contact Executive Director Jill Filer at 380-2727, ext. 1224.

Rotary Club opens Little Free Library at McEowen Elementary

The Harrisonville Rotary Club, in partnership with McEowen Elementary School, is hoping to encourage reading through the use of a new resource.

Rotary has opened a Little Free Library on the grounds of McEowen Elementary School, 1901 S. Halsey.

The Little Free Library is stocked with books for all ages and is open all day, every day.

The idea is that families can visit the library, take a few books, and then leave a few books for others.

Rotarian John Foster built and installed the library.

The Rotary Club hopes to be able to build and set up more Little Free Libraries in other locations.

“One of our focus areas is literacy and our purpose is service to the community, so this project is a great combination of both,” said Rotary Board Member Gabe Sweitzer. “We hope it also inspires service with those families who participate by encouraging them to give books to the library.”

Foundation presents technology grant



Harrisonville Public School Foundation Vice President Alice Roach announced a grant to the Harrisonville School District totaling nearly \$20,000 at the district’s opening meeting. The Foundation grant will be used to purchase iPads and iPad cases for Harrisonville Early Childhood Center and Harrisonville Elementary School and Chromebooks for Harrisonville Middle School. The

grant supports the district’s Learning Without Limit initiative. The announcement was made during a “commercial break” for the Harrisonville Connections morning talk show/district opening meeting hosted by HHS seniors including Cole Welhoff (pictured). For more information about the Foundation, go to www.harrisonvilleschools.org/foundation.





CCC Director announces retirement

Cass Career Center Director Gina Smith has announced that she will retire at the end of the 2014-15 school year. Smith has worked in the Harrisonville School District for 27 years - all at Cass Career Center.

She has been the Director at CCC for four years. Prior to that, she was the Assistant Director for 11 years, the Adult and Community Education Coordinator for seven years, the Job Placement Coordinator for two years, and the Basic Skills Instructor for the At-Risk program for two years. Smith is also a native of Harrisonville and graduated from HHS.

"My 27 years at Harrisonville School District have been life changing. I have been given many opportunities and developed many relationships that have blessed my life."

Smith's accomplishments while

serving as Director include beginning the Adult Practical Nursing program at CCC, writing and receiving the Technical Centers that Work Grant twice, and presenting at both the state and national level on career and technical education.

She was recognized with the Educator of the Year award from the Harrisonville Chamber of Commerce in 2013. Smith has served on the Harrisonville Chamber of Commerce and Cass Regional Medical Center boards.

Following retirement Smith plans to travel with her husband and spend time with family.



"I will always be proud of the work I have done with students, teachers, and other educators and hope I have touched some of their lives like they have touched mine throughout the years."

District app provides mobile access to information

The Harrisonville School District is pleased to announce the launch of a mobile app as another source of information for parents and community members.

The app is available for free in the Google Play or App Stores. Search for Harrisonville Schools.

The app includes the following features: News - live news feed from district social media; Calendar - dates, times, and location for school events and activities; Notifications - friendly reminders sent directly to your mobile device; Directory - immediate access to staff phone and email; Parent Portal - log in from the app to check grades, lunch account balance, etc; Tip Line - ask a question, make a suggestion, share good news, or report a safety concern; Sports - access to sports news via social media, scores, and event dates/times; Lunch Menu - school lunch menus on your device; District

Website - quick access to a mobile friendly version of the district website; and Community Calendar - calendar with events throughout the community.

"The district app provides our parents, students, and community members with relevant information through a device that everyone uses daily - a cell phone," said Director of Communications Jill Filer. "We feel that immediate access to information is a win for both those who download the app and the district."

Those who download the app can also personalize it for their child(ren)'s school or specific news based on district Twitter and Facebook feeds.

For more information, visit the App page on the district website - www.harrisonvilleschools.org/app



PAT open to all district families

The Harrisonville Parents As Teachers program is a free program available to all families in the Harrisonville School District with children ages birth to five.

PAT hosts Playgroup every Tuesday morning from 9:15-10:15 a.m. when school is in session at the Early Childhood Center, 500 Polar Lane. Children, ages birth to five, can play with others their age and participate in activities. Toys, games, puzzles, and crafts are available.

Other events hosted by PAT include Wild & Wacky, an event focusing on physical activity at which children crawl, climb, and slide through an obstacle course; Story Book Cooks at which children can make a snack and enjoy storytime; and Wild About Animals, a spring event featuring all kinds of animals from zoo to farm.

PAT is staffed by two Parent Educators with over 60 years of early childhood education experience - Leigh Ann Friedrich and Peggy Frey.

For more information on the Parents As Teachers program, contact the Harrisonville Early Childhood Center at 380-4421, ext. 2804 or 2805.

www.harrisonvilleschools.org



HHS students, teachers “learn without limits” with new MacBooks

For Harrisonville High School students and teachers, the 2014-15 school year started off with the distribution of MacBook Air laptop computers for all students. The computers were passed out the first full week of school and since then students and teachers have been using them to enhance learning.

“I think students are more engaged, more organized, and developing real-world skills (such as problem solving, patience and determination). Students are also assisting each other as they brainstorm problems, and they are enhancing their interpersonal skills,” said HHS Communication Arts teacher Jeannie Frazier.

One of the reasons for providing the devices to students was to add relevancy to the curriculum by bringing real time information into learning. HHS social studies teacher Logan Kelim is doing just that.

“We have been using Twitter in our modern global issues class. The students have to respond to two breaking news/global issues via Twitter. Once the students respond, they have to reply with one to two sentences and provide a thought-provoking question. Once they have replied, the students have to screenshot their reply and email their photo to me. Twitter is one of the best resources to use for current and breaking news,” said Mr. Kelim.

In addition, students are learning how to navigate the digital world and problem solve.

HHS Communication Arts teacher Sarah Cummings said, “Research is no longer limited to major research projects. We have a lot more flexibility. When a question comes up in class, students have the resources to take a break from regular instruction to research and explore the topic. Because of this, students

are learning how to effectively use technology for research and how to determine whether or not a source is credible.”

Students are also seeing the benefits of the devices.

“The biggest impact on student learning as the year moves forward would be that we have all the knowledge at our fingertips, allowing us to find out what we need to find out even if said teacher isn’t available or around at that very moment. There is a lot of potential for innovation through the classroom and through our lives,” said freshman Chase Laizure.

Collaboration and the ability to communicate and learn 24/7 is another way the devices are being used.

“My entire class is online through a Blackboard style platform called Canvas. Students download assignments from unit modules and when they complete the assignments they upload them into Canvas for grading. Students who are absent, or would like to make corrections to their assignments (based on my feedback) are then able to fix their assignments and resubmit them easily. We rarely use paper, and I rarely make photocopies,” said Mrs. Frazier.

Special education teacher Matt Hague is also using a virtual classroom for his students.

“I am using Google classroom daily for assignments and to distribute information. It took students some time to get used to it but I believe they enjoy it now. It makes class flow more smoothly once we learned how to use it properly.”

The addition of 900+ MacBooks for students has not been without its difficulties.

Mrs. Cumming said, “As anticipated, there has been a learning curve for both teachers and students. On the student side, file organization

has been the biggest challenge. It has taken time for students to get accustomed to managing electronic copies of assignments instead of paper copies and to learn how to organize their documents and files.”

Foreign language teacher Susan Michon said, “I originally had reservations about how well students would stay on task, but I am usually able to keep them alert by circulating around the room.”

Mr. Kelim echoed those comments, “Distraction with the devices has been the toughest. A student may be very focused on work, however they have easy access to many distractions. Once the students are back on task and focused, they are completing the work and assignments.”

Teachers have been using the distractions and other minor issues as learning opportunities.

Junior Alexander Johnson said, “Students are going to learn a lot about digital citizenship. Teachers all over the school talk about digital citizenship and the aspects of using a computer safely.”

To emphasize that message, Tom Durkin from the Missouri Attorney General’s office visited the school in mid-October as part of



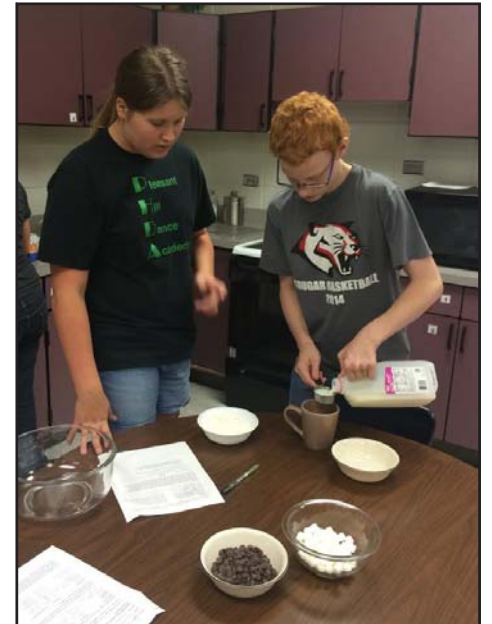
Cyber Security Awareness Month. He talked to all students about securing their personal information, internet scams, and cyberbullying.

For students and teachers, the positives of leveling the playing field and providing a resource like the MacBook for all students outweigh the issues.

Mrs. Frazier said, “I feel like I am a teacher of the future - very much like the Jetson’s teacher. I love how the Macbooks enrich the students’ experience in the classroom. I get to be the kind of teacher I’ve always wanted to be because the students have the tools to do anything they can dream.”



A look back at the first quarter of the year



Clockwise from top left: FFA participates in the Homecoming parade; HES students celebrate Missouri Day dressed as famous Missourians; HMS students create their own cake recipes in Family & Consumer Science class; HES first graders learn about the life cycle of a frog

during Science Day; HHS students speed date books to find one that they like; ECC hosts monthly Breakfast with Books events for kindergarten students and their families; McEwen students and moms enjoy the annual Muffins for Moms breakfast



City's electric department scores high in system reliability index

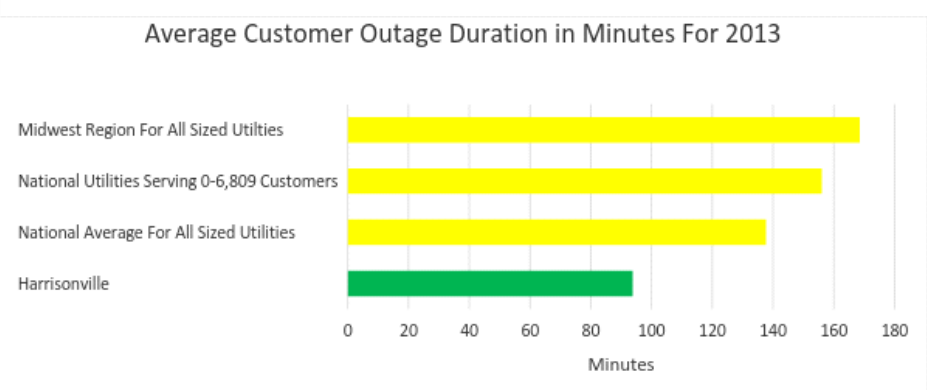
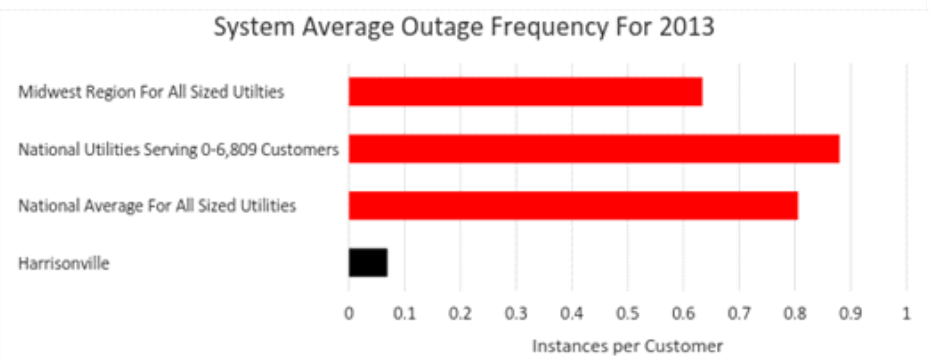
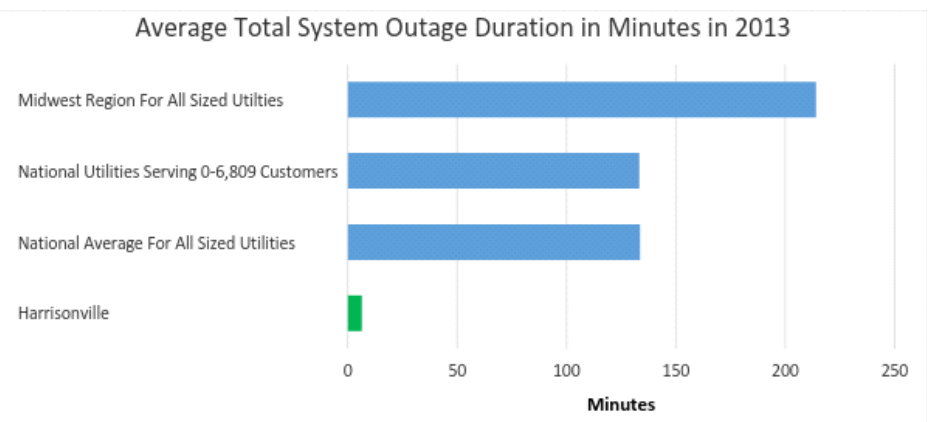
The Harrisonville Electric Department has recently received the evaluation of its first eReliability Tracker for the year 2013 from the American Public Power Association and is pleased to note that it is demonstrating some truly impressive results in service reliability, compared to other systems in the Midwest and the nation as a whole.

The tracker analyzes outage information supplied by a distribution system from several different perspectives to determine its reliability compared with other distribution systems across the country. "Not only does this report show we are well above average for similar sized utilities in our region, but we are also well above average for all electric utilities across the United States," Keith Thomas, Electric Department Director, said.

Reliability is an emergent property that reflects historic and ongoing engineering investment decisions with a utility. Proper use of reliability metrics ensures the utility is not only performing its intended function, but also is providing service in a consistent and effective manner. We can use this information to compare with data from similar utilities and

this report endeavors to group utilities by size and region to improve comparative analyses while reducing difference. To limit the comparison of utilities of truly different sizes, this report separates utilities into groups according to the number of customers served. Also, since the utilities considered in this report represent a wide variety of locations across the United States, each utility is grouped with all others located in their corresponding APPA region. Harrisonville, as might be expected, is grouped with the Midwest region.

System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) is tracked through the program data. It is defined as the average interruption duration in minutes for customers served by the utility system during a twelve month period. It is calculated by dividing the sum of all customers' interruption durations by the average number of customers served by the utility during that period. Our SAIDI is 6.484 minutes. The average for all utilities is 133.6884, utilities in our region 214.0614, and across the United States for utilities of our size 133.3058.



City uses variety of re-surfacing techniques to extend pavement life



There are 69.7 miles of city-maintained streets in Harrisonville. In the last six years, the city has completed almost 45 miles of street improvements while the Missouri Department of Transportation has resurfaced an additional 19.3 miles. A variety of techniques are used to preserve and extend the life of the pavement. For instance, chip sealing has been used on more than 28 miles of roadway in Harrisonville. Chip sealing is a process of apply-

ing a thin layer of asphalt binder covered by a thin layer of stone aggregate, one stone deep. It is designed as a sealer with a wear course of whatever size aggregate used. In Harrisonville, we commonly use 3/8 inch aggregate. Chip sealing adds only a small amount of additional structure strength to a road surface. Many of the streets west of King Street are constructed of chip seal built up through the years.

(Cont. on Page 11)



Harrisonville recognized for performance management focus

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) is pleased to announce that Harrisonville, Missouri, is being recognized for its performance management efforts with a Certificate of Achievement from the ICMA Center for Performance Analytics™.

“The certificate program recognizes the principles of performance management,” said Randall H. Reid, ICMA Director of Performance Initiatives. “Jurisdictions meeting the qualifications have demonstrated leadership in continuous improvement and community engagement, and they serve as examples for other governments to follow.”

ICMA assesses a local government’s performance management program and encourages analysis of results by comparing to peers and gauging performance over time. Performance management aids in cost reduction, program prioritization, and quality improvement. It also encourages accountability and transparency. Certificates are awarded at the levels of Achievement, Distinction, and Excellence. Harrisonville is among nine jurisdictions receiving the Certificate of

Achievement, and one of 49 recognized overall.

Criteria for the Certificate of Achievement include:

- Reporting of performance data to the public through budgets, newsletters, and/or information provided to elected officials
- Data verification efforts to ensure reliability
- Staff training.

About ICMA

Now in its 100th year, ICMA, the International City/County Management Association, advances professional local government worldwide. Its mission is to create excellence in local governance by developing and advancing professional management of local government. ICMA provides member support; publications; data and information; peer and results-oriented assistance; and training and professional development to nearly 9,000 city, town, and county experts and other individuals and organizations throughout the world. The management decisions made by ICMA’s members affect millions of individuals living in thousands of communities, from small villages and towns to large metropolitan areas.

Candidate filing opens December 16

Residents interested in running for election to the Harrisonville Board of Aldermen or for the office of Mayor may file their declarations of candidacy with the City Clerk, beginning Tuesday, Dec. 16, 8 a.m., in City Hall. In 2015, voters will select a mayor and one alderman in each of the city’s four wards for four-year terms.

Candidates for aldermen must be at least 21 years of age, a United

States citizen, a resident of Harrisonville for at least 1 year prior to the election, a resident of the ward from which he or she is seeking election, and current on all municipal taxes and user fees. Candidates for mayor must meet the same criteria, except the person must be at least 25 years old.

The filing period officially closes at 5 p.m. on Jan 20, 2015. The election will be April 7, 2015.



Mayor Kevin Wood presents the plaque representing the Certificate of Achievement from the ICMA Center for Performance Analytics to City Administrator Keith Moody and Finance Director Mike Tholen.

Road treatments help streets last

(Cont. from Page 10) Harrisonville is currently using granite instead of limestone because it has less dust.

In the last six years, the city has put down 14.61 miles of asphalt overlay. This technique consists of grinding out and replacing 2 inches of asphalt on the roadway’s surface. While it is the most costly maintenance method, it is used to correct surface defects.

Microsurfacing, also referred to as micropaving, has been used on only about 1.29 miles of streets. As its name suggests, microsurfacing seals the road surface by filling small cracks and depressions up to ½ inch deep. The general thickness of microsurfacing is about 1/4 inch, leaving a black asphalt-looking surface.

Fog sealing, which was used for

the first time this summer in Harrisonville, is a process of spraying a light coating of asphalt emulsion on a road surface to protect it from UV rays and to replace some of the asphalt oils lost from aging. It provides no additional structure strength to a road surface. On newly chip-sealed streets it is used to help lock in aggregate by filling in around the small stones. It is usually applied within ten days after the chip seal has been performed.

A color coded map which details the street improvements made in the period 2009 through 2014 is available on the city website.

Photo (opposite page): Fog sealing, one of the techniques the city uses to preserve and extend street pavement, was used for the first time last summer.



HARRISONVILLE *Highlights*

Community Calendar of Events

November 6 HCC Mixer, B&B Theatres, 5:30-7 p.m.
 November 6 Band Benefit Concert, HHS PAC, 7 p.m.
 November 6 CCPL Inspirational Book Club, 6:30 p.m.
 November 7 Teens & Tots Festival, Memorial Stadium
 November 7 ACT Registration Deadline for Dec. 12 test
 November 7 HMS Veteran's Day Assembly, 8 a.m.
 November 7 HCC First Friday Coffee, Mazzio's, 7:30-9 a.m.
 November 10 CCPL Brown Bag Book Club, 12-1 p.m.
 November 11 Parent As Teachers Playgroup, ECC, 9:15 a.m.
 November 11 DARE Graduation, HHS PAC, 7 p.m.
 November 11 CRMC Alzheimer's Support Group, 6:30 p.m.
 November 11 CCPL Me & My Toddler Storytime, 11 a.m.
 November 11 CCPL Tweens in the Kitchen, 2:45-4 p.m.
 November 11 CCPL Mystery Book Club, 6:30 p.m.
 November 12 CCPL Crop & Chat Scrapbooking, 9-11 a.m.
 November 12 CCPL ABC Storytime, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
 November 13 CCPL Legit Readers Teen Book Club, 3:30 p.m.
 November 13 CCPL Teen Poetic Voices Contest, 6:30 p.m.
 November 13 HES Family Night, 5:30-7 p.m.
 November 14 HES Fall Parties, 2:45 p.m.
 November 18 Parents As Teachers Playgroup, ECC, 9:15 a.m.
 November 18 Board of Education Meeting, Admin Office, 7 p.m.
 November 18 CCPL Me & My Toddler Storytime, 11 a.m.
 November 19 CCPL ABC Storytime, 9:30 & 11 a.m.
 November 19 CCPL Identity Theft Program, 6-7 p.m.
 November 19 ECC Breakfast with Books, 8:15 a.m.
 November 20 CCPL Teen DIY Gift Program, 3:30 p.m.
 November 20-22 HHS presents Beauty & the Beast, HHS PAC, 7 p.m.
 November 20 HCC Progressive Dinner, Square, 5:30-8 p.m.
 November 20 CRMC Diabetes Support Group, 6:30 p.m.
 November 21 McEowen Fall Parties, 2:45 p.m.
 November 21 HCC Ladies Night Out, Mill-Walk Mall, 6-9 p.m.
 November 23 HHS presents Beauty & the Beast, HHS PAC, 7 p.m.
 November 24 CCPL Brownies & Books, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
 November 25 Parents As Teachers Playgroup, ECC, 9:15 a.m.
 November 25 ECC Fall Parties, 3 p.m.
 November 26 CCPL Crop & Chat Scrapbooking, 9-11 a.m.
 November 26 CCPL ABC Storytime, 9:30 & 11 a.m.
 November 26-28 No School - Thanksgiving Break
 December 2 CCPL Tween in the Kitchen, 2:45-4 p.m.
 December 2 Parents As Teachers Playgroup, ECC, 9:15 a.m.
 December 2 ECC Terrific Citizens Assembly, 3 p.m.
 December 3 McEowen Positive Action Assembly, 2:50 p.m.
 December 4 HES 3rd Grade Music Program, HHS PAC, 7 p.m.
 December 4 CCPL Inspirational Book Club, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
 December 5 HES Awards Assembly, 3:15 p.m.
 December 5 HCC First Friday Coffee, Family Center, 7:30-9 a.m.
 December 6 Wildcat Basketball Tip-Off Event, HHS, 5-10 p.m.
 December 6 CCPL Christmas in the Cabin, 10-11 a.m.
 December 6 Fantasia, HHS/CCC, 8 a.m.
 December 6 HPR Holiday Craft Show, HCC, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 December 6 Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting, Square
 December 8 HMS Band Concert, HHS PAC, 7 p.m.
 December 8 CCPL Brown Bag Book Club, 12-1 p.m.
 December 8 CCPL General Book Club, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
 December 9 CCPL Tweens in the Kitchen, 2:45-4 p.m.
 December 9 HHS Band Concert, HHS PAC, 7 p.m.
 December 9 CCPL Mystery Book Club, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
 December 9 Parents As Teachers Playgroup, ECC, 9:15 a.m.
 December 9 CRMC Alzheimer's Support Group, 6:30 p.m.
 December 9 CRMC COPD Support Group, 11:30 a.m.
 December 10 CCPL Crop & Chat Scrapbooking, 9-11 a.m.
 December 11 CCPL Legit Readers Teen Book Club, 3:30 p.m.
 December 11 HMS/HHS Choir Concert, HHS PAC, 7 p.m.
 December 11 HCC Coalition of Chambers, Belton, 11:45 a.m.
 December 11 HCC Mixer, Tall Grass, 5:30-7 p.m.
 December 12 HHS Show Choir Showcase, HHS PAC, 7 p.m.
 December 13 Show Choir Competition, Webb City
 December 13 HHS Robotics Challenge, Camdenton
 December 13 HPR Holiday Open House, HCC
 December 15 CCPL Evening with Santa & Mrs. Claus, 6-7:30 p.m.
 December 16 Parents As Teachers Playgroup, ECC, 9:15 a.m.
 December 16 Board of Education Meeting, Admin Office, 7 p.m.
 December 17 McEowen Spelling Bee, 10 a.m.
 December 18 McEowen Winter Concert, HHS PAC, 7 p.m.

Key
 CCPL - Cass County
 Public Library,
 Harrisonville Branch
 CRMC - Cass Regional
 Medical Center
 HPR - Harrisonville Parks
 & Rec
 HCC - Harrisonville
 Chamber of Commerce
 PAC - Harrisonville High
 School Performing Arts
 Center

December 18 CCPL Teen Cookie Decorating, 3:30 p.m.
 December 18 CRMC Diabetes Support Group, 6:30 p.m.
 December 19 End of 2nd Quarter, ½ day for students
 December 22 CRMC Community Blood Center Blood Drive, 2-5 p.m.
 Dec. 22-Jan. 2 No School - Winter Break
 January 2 HCC 1stFriday Coffee, Campbell Fire Protection, 7:30-9 a.m.
 January 3 HHS Robotics Competition Kick-Off
 January 5 No School - Teacher Work Day
 January 6 CCPL Me & My Toddler Storytime, 11 a.m.
 January 6 Parents As Teachers Playgroup, ECC, 9:15 a.m.
 January 7 CCPL Crop & Chat Scrapbooking, 9-11 a.m.
 January 7 CCPL ABC Storytime, 9:30 & 11 a.m.
 January 8 CCPL Legit Readers Teen Book Club, 3:30 p.m.
 January 8 CCPL Inspirational Book Club, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
 January 8 CCPL Pajama Storytime, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
 January 8 HES Awards Assembly, 3:14 p.m.
 January 12 PTO Meeting, HES, 6:30 p.m.
 January 12 CCPL Brown Bag Book Club, 12-1 p.m.
 January 12 CCPL General Book Club, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
 January 13 CCPL Me & My Toddler Storytime, 11 a.m.
 January 13 CCPL Mystery Book Club, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
 January 13 Parents As Teachers Playgroup, ECC, 9:15 a.m.
 January 13 HES Family Night, 5:30-7 p.m.
 January 13 CRMC Alzheimer's Support Group, 6:30 p.m.
 January 13 CRMC Weight Loss & Bariatric Surgery Seminar, 6 p.m.
 January 14 CCPL ABC Storytime, 9:30 & 11 a.m.
 January 15 HCC Luncheon, TBD, 11:45 a.m.
 January 15-23 Major Saver Sales
 January 15 CCPL Percy Jackson Teen Party, 3:30 p.m.
 January 15 CCPL Pajama Storytime, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
 January 15 CRMC Diabetes Support Group, 6:30 p.m.
 January 16 HCC Ladies Night Out, Mill-Walk Mall, 6-9 p.m.
 January 17 Show Choir Competition, Columbia
 January 19 No School
 January 20 CCPL Me & My Toddler Storytime, 11 a.m.
 January 20 Parents As Teachers Playgroup, ECC, 9:15 a.m.
 January 20 Board of Education Meeting, Admin Office, 7 p.m.
 January 21 CCPL Crop & Chat Scrapbooking, 9-11 a.m.
 January 21 CCPL ABC Storytime, 9:30 & 11 a.m.
 January 21 CCPL Pajama Storytime, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
 January 24 HHS Robotics, UMKC
 January 24 Show Choir Competition, P. Hill
 January 27 Parents As Teachers Playgroup, ECC, 9:15 a.m.
 January 27 CCPL Me & My Toddler Storytime, 11 a.m.
 January 28 CCPL ABC Storytime, 9:30 & 11 a.m.
 January 28 ECC Breakfast with Books, 8:15 a.m.
 January 28 McEowen Positive Action Assembly, 2:50 p.m.
 January 29 CCPL Pajama Storytime, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
 January 30 ECC Terrific Citizen Assembly, 3 p.m.
 February 3 Parents As Teachers Playgroup, ECC, 9:15 a.m.
 February 6 HCC First Friday Coffee, Harrisonville Schools, 7:30-9 a.m.
 February 7 HPR Princess Ball, HCC
 February 10 Parents As Teachers Playgroup, ECC, 9:15 a.m.
 February 10 CRMC Alzheimer's Support Group, 6:30 p.m.
 February 10 CRMC Rehabilitation Services Open House, 4-6 p.m.
 February 11 CRMC COPD Support Group, 11:30 a.m.
 February 12 McEowen Spring Parties, 2:45 p.m.
 February 12 ECC Spring Parties, 3 p.m.
 February 12 Band Dinner Concert, HMS
 February 13 No School or Snow Make-Up Day #6 (½ day)
 February 14 Show Choir Competition, HHS
 February 16 No School
 February 17 Parents As Teachers Playgroup, ECC, 9:15 a.m.
 February 17 Board of Education Meeting, Admin Office, 7 p.m.
 February 19 HCC Luncheon, TBD, 11:45 a.m.
 February 19-21 Winter Play, HHS PAC, 7 p.m.
 February 20 HCC Ladies Night Out, Mill-Walk Mall, 6-9 p.m.
 February 20 CRMC Community Blood Center Blood Drive, 2-5 p.m.
 February 21 Show Choir Competition, Nevada
 February 21 Jazz Band Festival, UCM
 February 22 Winter Play, HHS PAC, 2 p.m.
 February 24 Parents As Teachers Playgroup, ECC, 9:15 a.m.
 February 25 Conference Band Auditions, Oak Grove
 February 25 ECC Breakfast with Books, 8:15 a.m.
 February 25 McEowen Positive Action Assembly, 2:50 p.m.
 February 26 HES 2nd Grade Music Program, HHS PAC, 7 p.m.
 February 27 ECC Terrific Citizens Assembly, 3 p.m.