

MAROA FORSYTH

Home of the Trojans



Building a Better World One Student at a Time



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER- November 2012

Superintendent Comments

The 2012 school report cards were recently reviewed at the October School Board Meeting. The school report cards contain information on student performance, student demographics, staff demographics, and District finances.

I would like to take a moment to provide a quick overview of our student performance on the standardized testing. Our overall number of students meeting and exceeding the state standards increased from 86.5 to 89.3%.

On the ISAT test (Illinois Standards Achievement Test), which is administered to third through eighth grades, our students meeting and exceeding state standards decreased slightly from 93.9% to 92.6%. This slight decrease is attributed to an increase of the cut score on the reading test at all grade levels.

On the PSAE test (Prairie State Achievement Exam), which is administered to our eleventh graders, students meeting and exceeding state standards increased from 55.2% to 70.3%.

I would like to extend a big "thank you" to the faculty, staff, students, parents, and the communities for the support of the District that make this type of performance possible.

The 2012 School Reports are available on the District's Website at the following address:

<http://www.mfschools.org/unit/repcard/index.htm>

District Finances

The State of Illinois' financial situation continues to have a negative impact on the District's financial outlook. During the 2013 Fiscal Year, the District will receive approximately \$219,000 less in General State Aid than was received in FY 2012. This decrease in General State Aid (GSA) marks the fifth consecutive year that our revenue has decreased from the State. In FY 2013, Maroa Forsyth will receive roughly \$740,000 less in GSA than it did during FY 2008. When one computes the compounding effect of this annual loss, the District has received almost two-million dollars less in revenue than if revenue had remained consistent at the 2008 levels.

Over the past several years the Board of Education and Administration, along with the faculty and staff have worked, and will continue to work, diligently to control expenses. The ultimate goal is to make the necessary adjustments while minimizing the effect to the quality of the educational program offered at Maroa Forsyth. It is with great pride

that we are able to continue to see the strong academic performance of the District as seen in the School Report Card.

For more information on the decline of state revenue, take a look at the GSA Analysis at:

<http://www.mfschools.org/unit/Financial/generalstateaid.pdf>

School Board Elections

The Maroa Forsyth Board of Education has three seats available during the upcoming April election. Due to State law Districting requirements, and current composition of the Board of Education, there is a maximum of one seat available within the Hickory Point Township and a maximum of two seats available within the Maroa Township. Petitions for School Board elections may be picked up in the unit office from 7:00 AM -4:00 PM Monday through Friday. For more information on the requirements for the school board, please visit:

<http://www.mfschools.org/unit/board/Boardelections.pdf>

Unit Office Joins Twitter **@MFTrojans**

I encourage you to follow the District on Twitter as we attempt to keep you updated on the happenings in the District. We will pass along schedule changes, important dates, announcements, etc.

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Maroa Forsyth High School



Principal's Message

As most of you know, Mr. Jostes and I have spent a good portion of our summer and fall working on solidifying the Okaw Valley Conference. With the withdrawal of Warrensburg-Latham, Meridian, Central A&M, Sullivan, Argenta-Oreana, St. Teresa, Tuscola, and Clinton, the Okaw was left with the three remaining schools (Monticello, Unity, and the Trojans). Our hand was forced to find other options for our students and programs.

It is imperative for scheduling purposes for all of our sports to have a conference to compete in. It is equally important that our coaches and athletes have a conference title to compete for. That said, we feel fortunate to inform you that we have successfully petitioned three very strong schools to join us in the Okaw Valley Conference beginning 2014-15 school year. Rantoul, St. Joe-Ogden, and St. Thomas More will bring a consistent level of competition across their programs that will further strengthen our own programs. These three schools will also open the Maroa-Forsyth community to increased exposure to the Champaign-Urbana media and area.

School Improvement

As previously mentioned, Focused Learning is our newest academic initiative. Our Research group has completed the final stages of construction for their hydroponics projects and will continue to monitor those throughout the year. In the mean time they are just

beginning their electronic layouts for their Bridge Projects. We are very fortunate to have four local engineers to help guide our students through this project. A special thanks goes out to those teams leaders, Kris Quant, Chris Beckman, Ivan Gonsalves, & Matt Leighton.

We have also added a Science section to our RTI group to help those students who are struggling in one or more of our Science classes. Ms. Griffith is utilizing an on-line science tutoring program, peer tutors, and teaching students how to develop appropriate note cards. We feel these interventions, along with those used in our Reading and Math RTI groups, will undoubtedly help those students succeed.

Other News

Congratulations to Mr. Jostes as he recently finalized an agreement with Applebee's Restaurant. Applebee's has agreed to provide \$25 gift cards each month to our male and female athletes of the month, our student of the month, and our teacher/volunteer of the month. In addition to the gift cards, Applebee's has agreed to provide the funding for 400 t-shirts throughout the year to be given to the members of our successful athletic teams.

Kady and Curt were our female and male athletes of the month, Matthew Nalefski was our Student of the Month, and Mr. Cluver was our faculty's choice as Teacher/Volunteer of the month for his dedication to

our students in the RTI Math Group.



KEVINKROWS.com
SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

Congratulations to Kady Mahaffey as she has advanced to the State Cross-Country final at Detwieller Park in Peoria, Saturday, November 3rd. Kady finished 5 out of over 200 runners at Sectional.

Our football team continues to cruise in the 1A Playoffs and will take on Villa Grove Saturday, November 3rd, at the 1:00 on The Boyd.

Girls' basketball practice is underway and the boys' will begin on Monday, November 5th.

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Maroa Forsyth Middle School



Principal's Message

The middle school staff is very proud of the students at MFMS for their academic performance during the 1st quarter. Over 85% of all middle school students were on either High Honor Roll or Honor Roll. As a result, the students will participate in an Academic Celebration on November 2nd. To view the 1st Quarter Honor Roll please visit the middle school website at www.mfschools.org/middle.

I would like to encourage everyone to come out and see this years Middle School Musical, "Alice in Wonderland". The choir will be holding two performances open to the public. Anyone interested in purchasing tickets should call the middle school office at 794-5115. The performances will take place on November 9th and 10th at 7:00 pm.

I would also like to invite anyone interested to attend our Veteran's Day Assembly on November 9th at 2:00. I have placed an Invitation on our webpage along with information about a picture slide show we create for the assembly. If you know a veteran who is interested in attending or would like to send pictures of family members who are veterans, please have that information to me by November 8th.

The 8th graders will be taking the Explore test on November 26th and 27th. This test will give the high school and parents an indication on how the students will perform on their ACT test. Please encourage your students to try their best on the Explore test.

If you have questions or concerns, feel free to email me at stewartb@mfschools.org or call me at 794-5115

PBIS News

Earlier this school year, Maroa Forsyth Middle School received recognition for implementing PBIS. The Middle School was given "Exemplar" status which is the highest level of recognition given to schools. MFMS is only one of six schools in the state of Illinois to receive this level of recognition. Congratulations to the MFMS staff for working hard to make PBIS a great program for our students. To learn more about PBIS please visit our new PBIS section of the middle school webpage at <http://www.mfschools.org/middle/PBISWEB/index.html>.

The PBIS quarter goal was to have less than 45 discipline referrals. I am very pleased to report we met our goal and only had 18 discipline referrals for the first quarter. Since we did so well the first quarter we have dropped our second quarter goal to less than 35 discipline referrals. As a reward for a great quarter, all middle school students had the opportunity to participate in field games.

Students also get an opportunity to participate in a reward if they meet their monthly objective. So far the monthly objective has been to not get any referrals for missing homework. The monthly objective for November will be to not receive any homework or discipline referrals.

Athletic News

Congratulations to the girl's 7th grade basketball team on winning this years Girl's Athletic Boosters Round Robin Tournament. Both the 7th and 8th grade girls' will begin regional play in November. The 7th grade will play their regional in Williamsville and the 8th grade regional will be at Lincoln.

The boys' basketball teams will open their season on November 2nd at home vs. Heyworth. The boys play Monticello, Shelbyville, and Clinton at home during the month of November. Please come out and support the teams.

Volleyball season will be starting soon as well. Tryouts will begin in December and their first game is January 7th. Anyone interested in trying out for volleyball needs to make sure their physical and insurance information is turned into the middle school office.

Important Dates

November

8th-Girl's Basketball 8th Grade night

9th-Veterans Day assembly
9th and 10th MS Musical 7:00

16th-2nd Quarter Midterm

21st-23rd-No School

26th-27th-8th Grade Explore Test

December

7th-MS Winter Dance 3:00-5:00

11th-MS Band/Choir Winter Concert 7:00 at the MS

20th-End of 2nd Quarter
11:30 Dismissal

21st-Jan. 4th-No School

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Maroa Forsyth Grade School



Principal's Message

This is a very busy time of year here at MFGS. The students have been busy learning. We also have several other activities that are exciting.

The second and third grade performed their concert on October 25th. The kindergarten and first grade concert is scheduled for November 15th. Fourth Grade is December 6th, and fifth grade is December 13th. All concerts start at 7:00 and doors open at 6:30.

The students are also quite busy preparing for our annual Veteran's Day Assembly. The assembly will be November 9th, at 9:30. Veterans are welcome to come early for coffee and donuts. Students will do several readings, recite a poem, and sing many songs. Students from the FFA will be here to conduct a flag folding demonstration.

We would like to thank the members of the Community Club for providing the funds to get six more iPads. We now have 26 and all students in a class will be able to use them at one time. We would also like to thank them for putting on the parties for Halloween. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

PBIS News

PBIS is going very well so far this year. Students are turning in Trojan Treasures for rewards. Students turn their Trojan Treasures into Mrs. Hunte.

For October we are working on hallway behavior. Classes are being given Class Trojan Treasures and the classes that accumulate the most treasures will earn extra recesses.

Please ask your children about the PBIS program. They should be able to explain the behavior expectations for all of the common areas in the building, the goal we are working on, and what it takes to earn Trojan Treasures and Class Trojan Treasures.

McTeacher Night

November 13th from 5:00-8:00 several teachers will be working at McDonald's in Forsyth. Please join us for dinner. McDonald's is donating 20% of all sales to our school.

Community Club

The Community Club meets the first Monday of every month at 6:30. They do many important things to support the school. If you are interested in becoming involved with the Community Club you are encouraged to attend a meeting.

ArtPals

Students at Maroa-Forsyth Grade School are lucky to have a very talented set of parents that are willing to share their time. The parents that volunteer for ArtPals come into classes and teach lessons about famous works of art and then lead the class in creating their own works of art.

The ArtPals parents also display the students' artwork in the hallway by the Blue Computer Lab. There is a bulletin board where featured grades will be placed each month.

Safety Drill

All schools in the State of Illinois are required to conduct a safety drill. The faculty and staff will be working in cooperation with the Macon County Sheriff's Department on November 16th to conduct the safety drill here at MFGS. A SchoolReach will be sent out to remind you of this.

Important Dates

November 9	Veteran's Day Assembly
November 13	McTeacher Night
November 15	Kindergarten & First Concert
November 21	No School
December 6	Fourth Grade Concert
December 13	Fifth Grade Concert

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