

# MAROA FORSYTH

## Home of the Trojans



Building a Better World One Student at a Time



## DISTRICT NEWSLETTER- May 2013

### Superintendent Comments

It's hard to believe that we are wrapping up another school year. Each year seems to go by quicker than the previous one.

Eighth Grade Promotion is scheduled for May 23, 2013. It will take place in the high school gymnasium beginning at 7:30. High School Graduation is scheduled for May 24. It will also take place in the high school gymnasium and begin at 7:30. Please stop by and celebrate this great accomplishment with our graduates.

We can't talk about closing the current school year without mentioning the upcoming school year. Registration will be held on August 7, 2013 in all buildings from 12:00-7:00. For more information on 2013-2014 registration, please visit:

[http://www.mfschools.org/unit/Unit/regi\\_sinfo13-14.pdf](http://www.mfschools.org/unit/Unit/regi_sinfo13-14.pdf)

The teachers institute will be held on August 19, with the first day of student attendance being August 20, 2013. The complete 2013-

2014 School Calendar is available at:

<http://www.mfschools.org/unit/Unit/CAL20132014.pdf>

### Board of Education

We would like to welcome two new members to the Board of Education. Russ Corey, a long time educator, will represent the Hickory Point Township and Rhonda Braden, a lifelong resident of Maroa, will be representing the Maroa Township. The new members will be sworn in and take the Oath of Office on May 6, 2013. We look forward to working with them in the future.

We would also like to honor and thank our outgoing Board members: Andrea Shaffer served on the Board for sixteen years. Mark Stahl served for the past ten months after being appointed last June. We would like to thank both Andrea and Mark for their service to the Maroa Forsyth School District and wish them well in the future.

We would also like to remind you the Board of Education meets the second Monday of each month at 7:00 in the High School Library. The Public is encouraged to attend. If you

are unable to attend, but would like to stay informed of the happenings of the District, please check out the School Board Webpage at:

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

Here you will find the meeting schedule, Board Policy Manual, Board Agendas, and Meeting Minutes as well as contact information for the Board of Education Members.

### Retiring Faculty

The Maroa Forsyth School District will be losing three long time faculty members to retirement this spring.

**Karen Gipson:** Karen currently teaches first grade and has been with the District for thirty-four years.

**Jennifer Stout:** Jennifer currently teaches second grade and has been with the District for twenty-six years.

**Ethel Jaggi:** Ethel teaches middle school and high school math and has been in the district for fourteen years.

The expertise and experience these three take with them will be missed. We wish them the best as they transition to the next stage in their life.

# TROJANS



# Maroa Forsyth CUSD #2



## Curriculum and Assessment

As the State prepares to move to the new PARCC assessment, which addresses the Common Core Learning Standards, they are raising the performance expectations, cut scores, for the 2013 ISAT. This adjustment is to illustrate how the rigor of the new assessment will impact schools before it happens. As we look forward to the new Standards and Assessment we realize school districts need consistent data to study student progress and achievement trends that are not manipulated for other purposes. Fortunately the district employs other measures to monitor student progress that include classroom assessments, curriculum based measures, and the MAP test (reading, language and mathematics). Students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade take the EXPLORE test and students in 10<sup>th</sup> grade take the PLAN test. Results from curriculum based measures, MAP, EXPLORE, and PLAN have national norms so we are able to make comparisons with thousands of students across the

country. This is critical information as we make the transition to the Common Core State Standards, which outline the skills and content our students must master at each grade level to continue on the path to college and career readiness.

The district is working to implement the Common Core Learning Standards for mathematics and English language arts before the official state assessment is launched for the 2014-2015 school year. Teachers have established learning targets for each area and are reviewing instructional practices, materials, and assessment procedures to support the new expectations.

As we finish our second year tracking MAP results, we can see there are areas where we need to strengthen our alignment to the Common Core Standards. As we make this shift your student's assignments and homework may be different as new instructional practices based on research address new content.

The Common Core Mathematics prepare students for algebraic functions (which leads to all other kinds of mathematical

functions) they focus on fewer skills but with greater depth. There are fewer concepts early with greater mastery that make algebra more accessible. In the earlier grades a sound understanding of whole numbers and fractions are presented to develop the foundation for algebra.

The English Language Arts Standards embrace fiction and nonfiction that require students to learn how to dig deep into understanding complex text. The literacy focus includes history/social studies, science, and technical subjects not just English and reading courses. As readers and writers, students are required to use textual evidence to support their statements. Getting students to again dig deeper into understanding.

This will have an impact on your student and the way you support their learning. The focus is on understanding, not just doing an assignment. Students will practice their new skills so they are able to perform their level of understanding independently as they progress.

# TROJANS



# Maroa Forsyth High School



## Principal's Message

As the school year winds down, we are busy attempting to meet all of our deadlines. The wet spring caused us for the most part to throw our spring athletic schedules out the window and start over. Fortunately, the field turf and all-weather track allowed us a few additional practices and soccer contests that we would not have previously been afforded. In addition, to this date we have been able to successfully host eight or nine middle and high school track meets. Although we have yet to use our state of the art timing system, by all accounts, the meets have gone smoothly and our facilities are appreciated by our students and competitors alike.

## School Improvement

***Focused Learning.*** The faculty and I continue to work on our Focused Learning concept. We are contemplating changing the units of study from weeklong topics to quarterly topics with student choice determining the topics. We still have work to do but I believe the idea has good educational merit.

***Common Core State Standard Alignment:*** Our faculty, particularly Math and

English departments, continue to work hard on aligning our curriculum with the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS). As previously discussed, this constitutes a big shift in what are teachers teach and how they teach it. We had six faculty members attend workshops on the English Language Arts (ELA) standards this past week. We are hopeful our work and preparation will payoff.



KEVINKROWS.com  
SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

## Athletics & Activities

Our Trojan softball team knocked off the Shelbyville Rams and their Arkansas-bound pitcher, Grace Moll, for the first time in four years. They edged in for a three-way tie for first in the Okaw with Clinton and Shelbyville.

Mr. Weisenborn has steadily increased the participation in our high school choir as 62 students have requested choir for next year. The choir and band are busy planning and fundraising for their trip to New York City next year. Mr.

Weisenborn is also tinkering with the idea of organizing a school-wide talent show for sometime next year.

## Other News

Gabby Werren and Matthew Leighton were our Macon County Scholar-Athlete winners. Drew Aschermann and Kady Mahaffey were our Okaw Valley Scholar-Athlete winners. Each student received a certificate and a \$100 scholarship.

## Important Dates

- May 15, 7:00 pm  
Baccalaureate- Forsyth Methodist Church
- May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Senior Exams
- May 18-20 Senior Trip
- May 21 Odd Hour Semester Exams
- May 22 Even Hour Exams & Awards Night-Dessert at 7:00 pm Awards at 7:30 pm
- May 24<sup>th</sup>- Graduation Practice at 9:00 am and Graduation at 7:30 pm



# TROJANS



# Maroa Forsyth Middle School



## Principal's Message

We would like to congratulate two of our teams on great seasons. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in state and were also conference champions. The Scholastic Bowl team had another good season and was conference champions for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. I would also like to congratulate the 6<sup>th</sup> grade choir, and the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade choir on the 1<sup>st</sup> place at Organizational Contest. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade band also received a 1<sup>st</sup> division rating and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band also did an excellent job at Organizational Contest earning a 2<sup>nd</sup> division rating.

As we wind the year down, we have multiple events going on over the last few weeks. The Spring Choir Concert/Talent Show will be on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the High School Cafetorium. Our next dance will be held on May 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:00. The Middle School Awards assembly will be on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 and parents are invited to attend. The 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade band concert will be held at the Middle School on May 21<sup>st</sup>, Finally, 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion will be held on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 in the high school gym. Promotion practice will be held on May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00-10:30. All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students may leave school after practice is over but they must arrange their own ride home.

Looking towards next year, don't forget registration will be on August 7<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-7:00 throughout the district. The first day of school will be on August 20<sup>th</sup> and unlike in the past, it will be a full day of

school. All incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders need to make sure they have a 6<sup>th</sup> grade physical, Tdap immunization, and a dental exam. 8<sup>th</sup> graders will need to have a physical to enter high school. The DMH Medical group will be giving physicals at the High School on May 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 3:00 for \$25.

If you have questions or concerns, feel free to email me at [stewartb@mfschools.org](mailto:stewartb@mfschools.org) or call me at 794-5115

## PBIS News

To celebrate a great year, the PBIS team has planned two different activities for the last day of school. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders will participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade breakfast with all the food prepared by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade will be watching a movie on the football field and will have popcorn and a drink provided. The students will also get the opportunity to "Dunk a Teacher" in a dunk tank.

We have had another great year at the middle school and a big reason for that is our PBIS team. I would like to give a big thanks to our team members for all their hard work and especially to Mrs. Johnson, our team leader, for everything she does. We would also like to thank the PBIS parent committee for volunteering their time throughout the year.

## Athletic News

The track season will quickly be coming to an end. The sectionals will be on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> and the State meet will be on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> in East Peoria. The season ending track awards will be handed out

during morning announcements on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped at our home track meets this year. Due to everyone's help, the home track season went as well as it could.

Any students wanting to participate in athletics next year needs to make sure they have a current physical on file in the office. Physicals are valid for one year and one month. DMH will be providing physicals to Maroa Forsyth students on May 13<sup>th</sup>, at the High School starting at 3:00. To set up an appointment, email Dianna Richardson at [richarddd@mfschools.org](mailto:richarddd@mfschools.org)

Spirit Squad tryouts for next year will be held on May 14-17 after school. The first day for baseball and softball tryouts next year is August 5<sup>th</sup>. Any incoming 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are eligible to tryout. If we do not have enough 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to fill the team, 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be allowed to tryout. The students will be receiving more information about tryouts before school is out. Please pay attention to our website during the month of July for updates about tryouts.

## Important Dates

### May

- 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade trip
- 7<sup>th</sup>-Choir Concert/Talent Show @ HS
- 10<sup>th</sup>-Spring Dance 3:00-5:00
- 16<sup>th</sup>-MS Awards-2:00 (Parents are welcome to attend)
- 21<sup>st</sup>-Band Concert @ MS
- 22<sup>nd</sup>-Last day of school
- 23<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion 7:30
- 24<sup>th</sup>-Report Cards picked up/mailed home

# TROJANS



# Maroa Forsyth Grade School



## Principals Message

We are quickly closing in on the end of the school year. We still have a lot of things happening around the grade school. The spring concerts are happening and the students are doing great. We have several exciting activities for the students to enjoy. An important change this year is to know that all report cards will be mailed home after the school year is over.

There are several field trips coming up. Please make sure to have your permission slips back to the school prior to the day of the trip. We want every student to enjoy their field trips with their classes. If you have questions on a field trip please call your child's teacher.

The Community Club has recently completed a book give-away. The students were allowed to select a book to keep. They are planning on doing this again. We really want to thank the Community Club and their support of literacy. The Community Club is also providing the inflatable activities on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The students really like this day. Thank you to the Community Club for your support throughout the school year.

ArtPals has brought in a professional artist this year to teach lessons. Regina Rhoades taught each class a

pottery lesson. This was paid for in part by a grant from the Decatur Arts Council. The remainder of this was funded through the Square 1 art fundraiser done in the fall.

Enjoy the nice weather and lets have a great ending to 2012-2013!

## PBIS News

PBIS has been very successful this school year. We have had many students redeem Trojan Treasures for various rewards. The students have been able to earn rewards for as few as five Trojan Treasures. In March and April we had separate incentives for positive behavior in the mornings. The students were allowed to come to the gym to have some extra play time each month. As we get ready for next school year we are looking for ways to continue to improve our PBIS program.

## School Bus Safety

Toby the Tire School Bus Safety Assembly came to the grade school in mid-April. The students learned about school bus safety both on the bus, boarding, and getting off of the school bus. It is important for students to know these safety rules. When students are waiting for the bus they should be at least three big steps away

from the road. Students should be waiting, paying attention for the bus and not running around at the bus stop. When students get onto the bus they should use the railing and board the bus one at a time. This will allow the driver to help students if needed. For safety reasons it is very important for students to sit in the seat with their back against the seat. Remind them to keep bags or other items out of the aisle. When getting off the bus remember to use the railing and step off of the bus carefully. After students are off of the bus please walk away from the bus, and if you need to cross the street do it in front of the school bus beyond the safety arm that sticks out. The driver will have their stop sign out to protect students while they are crossing the street.

These rules help students safely get to school and home from school. Please remind students of these rules and especially before school starts in the fall.

## Important Dates

- May 6-MAP testing begins
- May 6-CBM begins
- May 16-5<sup>th</sup> grade musical
- May 21-Band concert at Middle School
- May 21-Community Club Inflatable Day
- May 22-Last day of student attendance (3:05 Dismissal)
- May 23-Teacher Institute Day

# TROJANS