

MAROA FORSYTH

Home of the Trojans



Building a Better World One Student at a Time



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER- November 2014

School Report Cards

The annual school report cards are now available. They take a much different look than they have in the past. I would encourage individuals interested in the school report card data to review the "snapshot" that is included on the District's website, but I would also encourage you to explore the more detailed data that is included on the Illinois Interactive Report Card. I have included the link to both websites below:

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

<http://www.illinoisreportcard.com/>

PARCC Testing

Maroa Forsyth will be participating in the new Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). PARCC testing is a new method of evaluating student achievement that is being implemented across Illinois and several other states across the country in the spring of 2015. This new testing will replace the ISAT and PSAE assessments that we have been accustomed to for the past several years.

While the details of the new evaluation system are still

being developed, there are a few factors that are known. Similar to the ISAT testing, students in grades three through eighth will be evaluated. However, unlike the PSAE test that evaluated all high school juniors, the high school portion of PARCC will evaluate students based on the particular English and Math course they are currently enrolled in. There will be students that will be subject to both testing areas and students not subject to any of the evaluations throughout all four years of the high school curriculum.

One of the more significant changes to the testing process is that all tests will be computer based, rather than the traditional paper and pencil tests students are accustomed to. This will apply to all students that are being assessed.

The District will attempt to keep parents informed of the changes as the details become available. If you are interested in learning more about the PARCC assessment I have included the website for the PARCC organization as well as the website for the Illinois State Board of Education's information on PARCC.

<http://www.parcconline.org/about-parcc>

<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/assessment/parcc.htm>

Finance Advisory Panel

The Maroa Forsyth School Board implemented a Financial Advisory Panel at its September meeting. This panel consists of Community Members, Teachers, Support Staff, Board of Education Members and Administration. The panel was asked to review the current conditions the District is experiencing and the reasoning for the continued deficits. The panel was also asked to present recommendations to the Board of Education on how to address the current situation and how they feel to best address the long term conditions in the District.

All of the information requested and discussed at the Finance Advisory Panel has been posted on the District's website for the community to review. The meeting minutes are also posted and reviewed by the Board of Education at their regularly scheduled monthly meeting. The information from the Finance Advisory Panel can be found at:

<http://www.mfschools.org/unit/FAP/Ind ex.htm>

TROJANS



Maroa Forsyth High School

"A Proud Tradition of Excellence"



Principal's Message

Hello Trojan Fans! We just topped off an amazing first quarter. We had 155 students make High Honor Roll for the 1st quarter!

Our Volleyball team is an outstanding 32-2 and regional champions at the time of this newsletter. They start sectional play at St. Thomas More, on November 4th and should we be fortunate enough to advance, we get to play here in our own Super-sectional on Saturday, November 8th. What a day that would be as we will also be hosting the Sangamon Valley Storm for a 2nd round playoff game here at 1:00 followed by the Supersectional here at 7:00 for a chance to go the state tournament.

Our SADD organization also hosted an outstanding assembly, presented by 3-Screen productions. The theme for the assembly was making good choices and standing up to bullying. Our students were very attentive and polite. Though we try to educate our students on these same principles regularly, we do have to deal with these issues periodically.

School Improvement

We had our first school improvement day on October 21st and here at the high school we devoted much of that time to understanding and preparing for the new PARCC assessment coming

this winter and spring. For those of you unfamiliar with PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of College and Careers), it will be replacing the ISAT at the elementary grades and PSAE here at the high school. The assessment has been designed to more accurately assess the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Students enrolled in English III and Algebra II will take two tests, one in late winter, and one in late spring. This is considerably different from what has been done before. We are still working through the logistics of the new online assessment and will be sending more information out at later dates.

Though early on we thought we would not offer the ACT here due to the inherent conflicts and amount of testing; however, we have decided to offer it again to all juniors this spring. More information on that will follow.

Athletics & Activities

As our fall sports teams enter post-season play, our winter teams are about to kick off. Girls' basketball begins practice November 3, and Boys' basketball and wrestling start November 10th.

Congratulations to Alex Ruwe for being awarded the 7th place National Honors in the Job Interview Contest held this week at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky.

Also congratulations to Brandon Kane (soph.) for advancing to the cross-country sectional. Brandon had a terrific season and got stronger as the year went on.



Other

Our FCCLA chapter will be hosting a Blood Drive, on Friday, November 14th. Students 16 and older may participate...as can any community members. If you are a community member interested in donating, please contact Diane Daggett at diane.daggett@mfschools.net



Special People of the Month for October

Jack Hockaday-Male Athlete
Kira Jackson-Female Athlete
Abbey Turner-Student
Laura Grider-Volunteer

TROJANS



Maroa Forsyth Middle School



Principal's Message

The middle school staff is very proud of all the students at MFMS who made the First Quarter Honor Roll. To view the 1st Quarter Honor Roll please visit the middle school website at <https://sites.google.com/a/mfscschools.net/mfms/>. Students will soon get to participate in an "Academic Celebration" to reward them for their hard work in the classroom. However, any student who receives a homework referral during 2nd quarter will not be allowed to participate.

I would like to encourage everyone to come out and see this years Middle School Musical, "Once on this Island". The choir will be holding two performances open to the public on November 14th and 15th at 7:00 pm at the HS. Anyone interested in purchasing tickets can do so in the MS office.

I would also like to invite everyone to attend the MS Veteran's Day Assembly on November 11th at 2:00. I have placed an Invitation along with information about a picture slide show we create for the assembly on our webpage. 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 10th. The band and choir will be performing so we encourage parents to attend as well.

For those of you who are not aware, we will no longer be taking the ISAT test every March. We will now be taking the PARCC test and it will occur

in March and May. We will try to get as much information out about the new test over the next couple of months. For more information you can visit www.parcconline.org.

If you have questions or concerns, feel free to email me at brice.stewart@mfscschools.net or call me at 794-5115

PBIS News

The PBIS 1st quarter goal was to have less than 35 discipline referrals. I am pleased to report we met our goal by having 32 discipline referrals for the first quarter. As a reward, all middle school students had the opportunity to participate in field games. In comparison to past years, the number of referrals for the 1st quarter was up quite a bit. We also had a large number of homework referrals. If you have not already watched the video recapping our 1st quarter I suggest you do so. You can find the video at this link, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJ_o-A8rJGE&feature=youtu.be

The students have also been receiving Star Bucks and Star Student awards for following our Code of Honor. Students have been able to use the Star Bucks on candy, electronic lunches, and early passes to lunch. Students who have continually met expectations have also been rewarded with free time outside and Buffalo Wild Wings certificates.

To find out more information about PBIS please visit our website at: <https://sites.google.com/site/pbis/mfms/>

Athletic News

Congratulations to the girls' 7th and 8th grade basketball teams on winning this year's Girls' Athletic Boosters Round Robin Tournament. The 7th grade girls will begin regional play on November 22nd in Williamsville. We will be hosting the 8th grade regional on December 1st, 2nd, and 4th.

The boys' basketball teams will open their season on November 6th vs. Heyworth. The boys play Monticello, Shelbyville and Clinton at home during the month of November. Please come out and support the teams. We will also be hosting the 7th grade Conference Tournament and 7th grade Regional this season.

Volleyball season will be starting soon as well. Tryouts will begin in December and their first game is January 12th. 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

11th-Veterans Day assembly
14th and 15th MS Musical 7:00
14th-2nd Quarter Midterm
17th-Girls' Basketball 8th Grade Night
26th -28th-No School

December

5th -MS Winter Dance 3:00-5:00
16th-MS Band/Choir Winter Concert 7:00 at the MS
18th-End of 2nd Quarter
19th—Jan. 5th-No School

TROJANS



Maroa Forsyth Grade School



Principal's Message

The fall is going great at MFGS. The students and teachers are working very hard. Fall is such an exciting time at school because of Halloween Parties, concerts, and the continued success of our high school's sport teams.

This year the students are not going to take the ISAT. The PARCC is replacing this assessment, and it is very different, and much more difficult than previous assessments. I encourage all parents to go the PARCC website and take the practice tests for your child's grade. The website to get started on these practice tests is: <http://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/>. The PARCC test is mandated by the state for all students in grades 3-8. This assessment will allow us to compare the students in Maroa-Forsyth not just with other students in Illinois, but among all of the other states taking the PARCC test.

We will be outside for recess as much as the weather permits. Please make sure your child dresses for the weather and has proper coat, hat, and gloves. If the wind chill is below 10 degrees we will be inside. We also will stay inside if the playground is too icy or muddy for our students to be outside safely. The decision is made by 11:00 everyday.

McTeacher Night

November 18th is our annual McTeacher Night at the Forsyth McDonald's from 4:30-7:00. Teachers will be helping with taking order, cooking, and working the drive thru windows. MFGS will receive 20% of sales during our McTeacher Night. Please come and see our staff in a different environment and help support our schools.

Morning Procedures

When students arrive at school they need to proceed to the cafeteria or gymnasium. If a parent has an appointment to see a teacher they need to come to the office so we can verify the teachers are in the classrooms. Teachers often have meetings before school. If there is an unforeseen emergency and parents or students need to see a teacher before school come into the office and we will attempt to locate the teacher for you.

Veterans Day Assembly

We would like to invite parents and local veterans to our annual Veterans Day Assembly. This assembly includes several readings, songs, the MFHS FFA, and Lt. Col. James Keith speaking to our students.

The assembly begins at 9:30. We would like to invite our local veterans to come at 9:00 for coffee and donuts.

Drop-off/Pick-up Reminder

This is a good time to remind everyone about arrival and dismissal procedures. If you chose to drop off and pick up your children, we want you to remember the safety rules we have in place. Teachers will be outside in the morning and Mrs. Meier will be outside in the afternoon

If you walk your student into school, please make sure you park in the lot and walk through the crosswalk. Do not park in the drop-off/pick-up line.

If you want to stay in your car and have the students meet you in car line, please stay in the right lane and have your child enter or exit your car on the passenger side when you get near the crosswalk. Please do not pull in front of the crosswalk. The daycare bus parks past the crosswalk and if other cars pull through it blocks the rest of parents from being able to exit our lot.

Thank you for following these safety procedures. These rules are in place for the safety of children and parents alike. If you would like to discuss these procedures please contact the office.

Birthday Treats

We ask that students not bring balloons, flowers, decorations, party invitations, or party favors. These become a distraction and are not allowed on the buses.