

# MAROA FORSYTH

## Home of the Trojans



Building a Better World One Student at a Time



## DISTRICT NEWSLETTER- March 2014

### Winter Weather!

This winter has been one for the record books! I wanted to thank everyone for their patience and understanding with the schedule changes that have been made.

The District makes every attempt to notify parents of schedule changes in a timely manner, but from time to time there are delays with the SchoolReach messenger service. This is usually due to an extremely high call volume being requested of the service. The District does place schedule change information on several television stations including WAND in Decatur, WCIA in Champaign and WICS in Springfield. Several area radio stations are provided with the schedule change information as well.

### Updated Calendar

With all of the changes that have been required due to the weather, we are currently looking at the last day of student attendance being June 3, 2014. This is a tentative date and could be revised if there are additional changes required in the coming months.

Another change that I would like to note is the teacher's institute that was

originally scheduled for January 6<sup>th</sup> and was canceled due to inclement weather has been rescheduled for April 17, 2014. This is the Thursday preceding Good Friday and will be a work day for the staff but will not require student attendance.

### Herald and Review Area Comparisons

On January 19, 2014 the Herald and Review ran their annual comparison on the academic performance of the schools within their circulation area.

It is with great pride that I say Maroa Forsyth was at the top of the area comparisons on the ISAT testing and near the top on the PSAE comparisons.

Just as a reminder, the ISAT tests are the state assessments administered to third through eighth graders in the areas of Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science. (The science test is only administered in 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades.) The PSAE is comprised of the ACT test as well as the *WorkKeys* exam and is given to all juniors.

I would like to commend the faculty, staff and administration for their hard work and dedication over the

years that have made this accomplishment possible.

Most importantly, this accomplishment would not be possible if not for the importance and value placed on education by the parents and community members present within the Maroa Forsyth Community.

Again, The Maroa Forsyth School District would like to thank you for the support that we receive that makes this type of recognition possible.

To view the entire article, please go to:

*Part I*

<http://www.mfschools.org/unit/Unit/A01.pdf>

*Part II*

<http://www.mfschools.org/unit/Unit/A01.pdf>

*Please note this is a two part article!*

### Updated Website Coming Soon!

The High School Business Computer Applications course has been assisting the Unit Office with updating the format of the District's webpage. Valuable information will still be available and hopefully expanded with the changes. We hope to launch the updates in the next few weeks.

# TROJANS



# Maroa Forsyth High School



## **Principal's Message**

If there was every a year I don't mind a long winter, this is it. I've said this before and I'll say it again; we have a GREAT group of kids in our building this year. I am very proud of each class' (9-12) behavior and approach to their studies. Normally at this time of year, students are getting tired of being cooped up inside and begin to act out a little bit...so far so good!

One of the highest honors our students can receive while here in high school is to be recognized as an Illinois State Scholar. Illinois State Scholars are determined by a formula that considers ACT score, Class Rank, and GPA. I am proud to welcome the following students into the 2014 group of Illinois State Scholars:

- Alex Berry
- Logan Broadhead
- Cassidy Coventry
- Kennedy Flesner
- Mattison Mason
- Charles O'Neill
- Jessica Sheffield
- Rachel Smith
- Tarynn Tirpak

NICE WORK TROJANS!!

## **School Improvement**

While our Focused Learning continues, our Juniors are completing their ACT/PSAE

prep work. Each student receives two hours of prep work at school each week focused specifically on preparing for these important exams.

Student schedule requests were recently due in the office. Once student requests are compiled, administration determines how many sections of each course will be offered and begins designing a master schedule. Efforts are made to offer as many different courses as possible while still providing for optimal class sizes. This is does not always work out exactly how we would like it to, but it works out to meet the needs of the vast majority of our students. We then try to accommodate the needs of individual studies when possible. Students will receive their 14-15 schedules by the end of the school year.

## **Athletics & Activities**

Our winter season has concluded and though our teams did not finish with a win, they never stopped competing and that says a lot about the character of our athletes and coaches.

Boys' Basketball finished the season 7-20 overall and 2-9 in the Okaw.

Girls' Basketball finished 16-9 overall and 8-3 in the Okaw.

Congrats to senior Tyler Ortman as he DID finish with a WIN when he took 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the state wrestling meet!!!!

Spring sports kickoff Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Other**

Looking for a funding supplement for freshmen sports as well as to provide a much requested service, we have decided to offer reserved seating and premium parking for our home football contests. 175 of the 1,200 will be available for reserved seating. Tickets are \$65 each and will include your admission to all regular season contests. A premium parking pass will be issued with the purchase of two tickets. Tickets will go on sale in the high school office at 8:00 am on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Contact the high school office for more information.

## **Students of the Month**

Please join me in congratulating our students of the month:

January-Charlie He, So.- Nominated by Mrs. Cluver

February- Tyana Brock, Fr.- Nominated by Mrs. Weedman

# TROJANS



# Maroa Forsyth Middle School



## Principal's Message

Due to the large number of inclement weather days, the Illinois State Board of Education is allowing us to push back the administration dates for the ISAT test one week. ISAT testing will take place at the Middle School on March 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>. The 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be tested in Math and English Language Arts. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders will also be tested in Math and ELA, but will be tested in Science as well. The students will take 2 tests per day. It is very important your students are present on the testing days but if they are absent, we will have time for make-up testing.

We have also adjusted our end of quarter date due to the missed days. The end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter is now March 21<sup>st</sup> and report cards will be sent home on April 4<sup>th</sup>, the week after spring break.

We would like to congratulate Shubha Verma and Yasir Hasnain on advancing to the Regional Spelling Bee. Yasir won the Macon County Spelling Bee for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in the past 4 years. We would also like to congratulate our Math Counts team on winning their regional competition. The Math Counts team will be competing in the State competition on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Finally our Scholastic Bowl team has gotten off to a great start again this year. The team will be competing for the Okaw Conference championship on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

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

## PBIS News

The middle school students have been doing an outstanding job of meeting their PBIS expectations. It appears the students will be under 30 discipline referrals for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and they will achieve their quarterly goal for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time. The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter celebration will be held on March 21<sup>st</sup>. We will hold the annual staff vs. students volleyball and basketball games. Our 4<sup>th</sup> quarter goal will be 25 or less referrals.

The students were recently able to use their Star Bucks to participate in a silent auction. Some of the items the students won were: Bobble Head Doll, Pizza for lunch, Movie Snack Pack, Trojan Head Band, and a purse.

Students who did not have a homework referral or discipline referral during the month of January were rewarded with an electronic lunch. The students were able to bring their electronics to lunch and use them. Students who did not receive a referral in February will also receive a reward.

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

## Athletic News

Both the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball teams are having a great season and will be participating in their regionals at the beginning of March. We will also be hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> grade regional on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade regional will be played in Lincoln on

March 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>. We will also host the 8<sup>th</sup> grade sectional on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

The track season will be starting on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Track practice will be held every day after school unless there is a meet or the coaches cancel. Practice is usually done around 4:30. Remember, anyone wanting to participate in track must have a current physical on file in the middle school office. We will be hosting 6 track meets during the month of April and will be looking for volunteers. If you would like to volunteer contact Coach Peters or Coach Livingood. To view the track schedule you can go to <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0BxBU79L3TKGKOFIaLWJnVIMzX00/edit>.

## Important Dates

### March

- 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>: ISAT testing at the middle school
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>: 7 Grade Volleyball Regional @ MFMS
- 10<sup>th</sup>-MS track practice begins
- 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball Regional @ Lincoln
- 17<sup>th</sup>: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball Sectional @ MFMS
- 21<sup>st</sup>: End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter
- 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>: Spring Break

### April

- 4<sup>th</sup>: Report Cards sent home
- 5<sup>th</sup>-Scholastic Bowl Conference Match @ Argenta
- 18<sup>th</sup>: No School
- 21<sup>st</sup>: No School
- 30<sup>th</sup>-Scholastic Bowl regional

# TROJANS



# Maroa Forsyth Grade School



## Principal's Message

Spring is a very busy time at school. Many grades are coming up on their field trips. The spring concerts will begin soon. Spring break is also an exciting time for students. When we return from spring break we will have begun the fourth quarter.

The ISAT testing will be starting on March 10<sup>th</sup>, for third, fourth, and fifth grades. Due to the number of snow days used this year, the State of Illinois allowed school districts the option to delay the ISAT one week. As a district we have made the decision to delay the test.

We will be able to go out for recess some day! Between ice, snow, and extreme cold weather we have been inside for over two months. We use the wind chill of 10 degrees as our minimum temperature to go outside. If the playground is ice covered or muddy we will not be outside. Once we are able to get outside, please make sure your children are dressed appropriately for the weather.

The end of the third quarter will be delayed one week. This delay is to keep the third and fourth quarters balanced. Report cards will be distributed on April 4<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please give us a call.

## Birthday Treats

The faculty and staff of Maroa-Forsyth Grade School enjoy celebrating birthdays with students. If you would like to bring a treat for your child's class there are some guidelines that must be followed:

- Treats must be store bought in original packaging
- Treats must be ready to serve (no teacher preparation)
- Teachers should be contacted at least one day in advance
- Treats must be delivered to office by 9:00 am

Party invitations are not to be brought to school to distribute.

## Notes from the Nurse

All students in kindergarten or second grade need to have a current dental exam on file with the school by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to either bring this form to school or send it in an envelope to Mrs. Letterly, our school nurse.

The school will be hosting a dental clinic for students who qualify for free or reduced lunch. These forms will be coming home with your children by March 8<sup>th</sup>. Please have them returned by Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Letterly.

## Drop-off/Pick-up Reminder

If you choose to drop off and pick up your children, we want you to remember the safety rules we have in place. Mrs. Galvin or Miss Bruner will be outside in the mornings and afternoon to assist in arrival and dismissal.

If you would like to walk your student to or from the door, 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. 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. Please have your child enter or exit your vehicle on the right (sidewalk) side. This is to ensure the safety of your child after they exit your car.

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.

## Important Dates

March 10-ISAT's Begin  
 March 17-No school  
 March 21-End of third quarter  
 March 31-School resumes