

MAROA FORSYTH

Home of the Trojans



Building a Better World One Student at a Time



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER- January 2015

Superintendent Comments

Welcome Back! I hope everyone found some time to rest and relax over the Holiday Break. The Maroa Forsyth School District is looking forward to an exciting 2015.

Inclement Weather Procedures

As we approach the winter season there is always the potential for the need to cancel or delay school due to the inclement weather. The decision to cancel or delay school is never an easy one and one that is not taken lightly. Student safety is our top priority and will always be the basis for our decisions. However, if we feel we are able to safely transport the students, school will be in session. In the event that school must be delayed or canceled, every attempt is made to make the decision by 6:15 on the morning in question. The District will use the *SchoolReach* phone and email notification system to inform students and their parents. The delay or cancellation information is also available through numerous media outlets. You may listen to radio stations: WSOY, Y-103, 95Q, WDKR, WEJT, and WHOW. Cancellations and delays will also be reported to the three major television

stations in the area as well. Those being: WAND, WCIA, and WICS.

Finance Advisory Panel

The District's Finance Panel continues to meet and discuss the ongoing financial issues in the District. The panel has determined the best way to address the issues in the short term is to make further reductions and to continue with short term borrowing.

The Panel is finalizing its list of recommended reductions for the Board of Education to consider in the near future. The District is also continuing to progress through the necessary steps to implement the recommended short term borrowing.

As the panel finalizes its recommendations for addressing the issue in the short term, their focus now becomes how to address the financial situation on a long term basis. They are currently identifying the components of the District the Community would like to have, determining the cost of the identified components, and determining the best way to implement them.

It is believed that panel will recommend a referendum to increase the education fund

tax rate to be placed on the April Ballot.

The Panel is planning on having several community meetings to discuss the process and answer questions brought forth by the community in the coming months.

I would like to thank the Panel members for the countless hours they have put into assisting the Maroa Forsyth School District.

Please keep an eye on the Finance Panel webpage for more information. The information from the Finance Advisory Panel can be found at:

<http://www.mfschools.org/unit/FAP/In dex.htm>

Board Member Vacancy

The Maroa Forsyth Board of Education has a vacancy with the recent resignation of Mike Gentle. The Maroa Forsyth School District would like to thank Mike for the time he spent on the School Board. Anyone interested in filing this vacancy must reside in the Maroa Township and will serve until the School Board Election in April. Interested Applicants should send a Letter of Interest to the Maroa Forsyth Unit Office declaring their interest prior to January 9, 2015.

TROJANS



Maroa Forsyth High School

"A Proud Tradition of Excellence"



Principal's Message

We are back at school and it looks like winter has finally arrived! I hope you each had a wonderful Holiday break and your students are ready to return. Though we had a few small bumps at the end of the first semester, overall it was tremendous. We expect our spring semester to be nothing less.

Though we have a couple of assemblies planned, much of our time will be spent working with and proctoring the new PARCC standardized assessment. If you are not familiar with the PARCC assessment, you can find more information at <http://www.parcconline.org/sites/parcc/files/PARCC1-pager-parents9-18-13.pdf>

PARCC will be given to any student enrolled in English III or Algebra II, regardless of their grade in school. Those students will be tested in March and again at the end of April/beginning of May. The PARCC assessment is aligned to better assess the new Common Core State Standards.

In addition to the PARCC assessment, we are also administering the ACT test to all of your juniors. The ACT test will be administered to ALL juniors here on March 3rd. Breakfast will be provided that morning for all juniors prior to the exam.

School Improvement

The past two School Improvement days have been spent working on our school improvement plan. During this process, faculty and administration evaluate assessment data, identify academic goals, and develop work plans to reach those goals. The plan is reviewed and revised each year to represent and accurately depict our current practices.

ACT prep classes for juniors will begin Monday, January 12 during Focused Learning. Special thanks to Mr. Cluver, Ms. Atherton, Ms. Griffith, Ms. Ramsey, and Ms. Luedke for being presenting faculty members for our ACT prep.

The MFHS Human Rights League has been working on projects to enhance the school environment with regard to respectful behavior and acceptance of others and will focus on the human right of "family," culminating in the Hoops for Haiti event to support Haitian Families First. To see what all they're up to, check out the Human Rights League tab at mrscluver.blogspot.com.

Athletics & Activities

Girls Hoops (Riverton)

Record 4-8
Holiday Record 1-3
Awards Brenna Finck All tourney team and hit 1000 points for her career.

Boys Hoops (Vandalia)

Record 3-8
Holiday Record 1-4

Dance

Finished 3rd out of 13
still chasing top 2

Wrestling (Bomber Classic)

7th in Holiday Tourney

Other

Dates:

1/9- 1st semester grades final
TBD- Freshmen Scheduling Night
1/19- No School- Martin Luther King (Observed)
2/6- Midterm
2/11 & 2/12 - 2:03 Dismissal
Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:30-8:00
2/16- No School- President's Day (Observed)

Special People of the Month for December

Student of the Month-*Destiny Leevey*
Male Athlete of the Month-*Brody Adreon*
Female Athlete of the Month-*Caroline Beckman*
Volunteer of the Month-*Rob Jacobsen*

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Maroa Forsyth Middle School



Principal's Message

I hope everyone had a great winter break and a Happy New Year. Before we left for break, the middle school held a class competition to see who could raise the most money for charity. The "Jam the Jars" competition was sponsored by the Student Council and as a school we raised \$3000. The 8th grade won the competition by bringing in over \$1600. All funds raised are donated to the Maroa Christmas Project who provides meals and gifts for local residents in need during the holidays.

During January we will start a few academic activities the students can get involved in. First will be our Spelling Bee. The students will have their grade level and the Unit Spelling Bee over the next month. We will be having our first History Bee this month as well. The Math Counts team which will compete at Millikin in a math competition with area schools in February. Finally, 7th and 8th graders can sign up for the Scholastic Bowl team which will also begin later this month.

I wanted to remind everyone that second semester parent/teacher conferences will be on February 11th and 12th. PARCC testing will start the week of March 9th. More information will be sent out concerning PARCC testing, which is replacing ISAT, later in the month. Please make every effort to have your students in attendance on the days they are tested.

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

PBIS News

The PBIS 2nd quarter goal was to have less than 2 referrals. I am very pleased to report that 85% of all the middle school students met their goal and were able to participate in the 2nd Quarter Celebration. As a reward for a great quarter, these middle school students had the opportunity to participate in fun activities during the last day of school before break.

During the students first week back, the students will receive a few refreshers on some issues that need to be improved upon during second semester. Hopefully these refreshers will help the students have a great second semester.

One issue we found at the end of the semester is a large number of students no longer have their agenda books. We do have some extra agenda books in the office that can be purchased for \$5. You can also purchase calendar books to use in place of the agenda. It is very beneficial for all students to have a place to write down assignments.

Athletic News

Both the 7th and 8th grade boys' basketball teams are having successful seasons. MFMS will be hosting the 7th grade Okaw Conference Tournament starting on January 10th and the 8th grade team will play their tournament in Sullivan. Both teams will begin regional play later this month. The 7th graders will play their regional at MFMS starting on January 24th. The 8th grade will

play their regional at Monticello starting January 31st.

The volleyball teams will open their seasons next week with three games. We will be hosting the 7th and 8th grade GAB Volleyball Classic on January 24th. This tournament will be played in the high school and starts at 8:30 am. We will also be hosting the 8th grade Okaw Tournament on February 21st. To end the season we will host the 7th and 8th grade regionals and the 7th Grade State Volleyball Tournament.

Track practices will begin at the beginning of March. Anyone wanting to participate in track must have a current physical on file in the middle school office. 6th, 7th, and 8th graders call participate in track.

Important Dates

January

- 9th: Report Cards sent home
- 10th-15th: 7th and 8th Grade Okaw Tournament 7th @ MFMS)
- 19th: No School **Dance Camp**
- 22nd: Basketball/Spirit 8th Grade night
- 24th: 7th and 8th Grade Volleyball Classic @ HS
- 24th-7th Grade Basketball Regional @ MFMS

February

- 6th-. Mid-Term
- 14th: Math Counts competition
- 11th: 2:03 Dismissal/Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-8:00
- 12th: 2:03 Dismissal/Parent Teacher Conferences 4:30-8:00
- 16th-No School
- 24th-Volleyball 8th Grade Night

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Maroa Forsyth Grade School



Principal's Message

Winter break is over and we are ready to get back to school. Hopefully, everyone had some time to relax and get ready for second semester.

The students in grades 3-5 will take a new state assessment this year. This test is called the PARCC. Each student will take this on a computer in both March and May. The tests are entirely based on the Common Core State Standards. I encourage all parents to visit <http://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/> and see what the tests will be like for their students. The students will be taking practice tests at school in an effort to get used to navigating the testing program. It is new to almost all students in Illinois this year. Results from these assessments will be distributed to parents.

This is a good time to remind everyone of the inclement weather procedures for the Maroa-Forsyth School District. If conditions exist that make it unsafe to hold school parents will receive a SchoolReach notification. The local media are also notified. Also, the MFGS's Facebook page will announce school closures or early dismissals as soon as decisions have been made.

Have a great start to the second semester!

Kindergarten Screening

Kindergarten screening is coming upon us quickly. The dates for kindergarten screening are February 18 & 19. Teachers will conduct these screenings, and the results will be shared with you immediately. If you have questions about your child's readiness to attend kindergarten, please ask the teachers. Please call the school office to schedule an appointment if you have a child who will be 5 years of age by September 1, 2015.

Winter Conferences

Winter conferences are scheduled for February 11 & 12. Conferences will be scheduled from 4:30-7:30 both nights. School will dismiss February 11th and 12th at 2:13. Teachers will be sending information about these conferences home with students. During the week of parent-teacher conferences, the Community Club Book Fair will be open. Information regarding the Book Fair will be coming out.

Community Club

The Community Meeting for January is scheduled for the 6th at 6:30. This organization has done a great job of providing extras for our students. Due to their generosity our students are able to have assemblies, parties and inflatable day.

Bus Stop Safety

Student safety is the highest priority of all school district. To make before and after school safer, please make sure you are following the procedures for our building. If you wish to drop off or pick up your student, please stays in the drop off-pick up lane closest to the building in front of the school. From this lane it is safe for your child to get in or out of the car. There will be a staff member in front of the building both before and after school to make sure everyone is dropping off children safely.

If you want to walk your children into the building, please park your car in the lot and assist them through the crosswalk and into the building. Unassisted students often run across the two lanes of traffic without watching for oncoming vehicles. If you have questions about the drop off or pick up procedures please come into the office.

Important Dates

- January 6-School Resumes
- January 12-School Board Meeting
- January 19-MLK Day (No School) [Dance Camp](#)
- February 11-12-Conferences
- February 18-19-Kindergarten Screenings
- February 13-Community Club Valentine's Day Parties