

# MAROA FORSYTH

## Home of the Trojans



Building a Better World One Student at a Time



## DISTRICT NEWSLETTER- November 2015

### **School Report Cards & PARCC Testing Results**

The annual school report cards have been delayed as a result of the delay in receiving the PARCC Assessment scores. The School Report Cards will be posted on the District's website once they become available.

We are expecting the PARCC scores to be available to the District in the very near future. Once the results are available, they will be made available to the public as well. We ask that you keep in mind the PARCC is a new test over new material that was administered online, which is a new method of assessment as well. We expect the percentage students that meet and exceed the state standards to decrease. This expected decrease is evident by the state wide results that were released earlier in the year. The link below will allow you to review the state wide results.

<http://www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/parcc/parcc-prelim-state-lvl-results.pdf>

The following is a letter that was sent to District from State Superintendent Tony Smith explaining the issues

associated with the release of the state PARCC scores.

<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/assessment/pdfs/parcc/parcc-supt-ltr-091115.pdf>

While the apparent decrease in scores is concerning, we fully expect the Maroa Forsyth School District to compare favorably with the state averages and in local comparisons that are completed by the local media.

For more information on the PARCC scores, please contact the building principal or the unit office. I would also encourage you to review the PARCC newsletter below.

<http://www.isbe.net/common/core/news/2015/oct.pdf>

### **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 social media and 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.

### **Lunchroom Procedures**

The District is currently exploring new software that controls our lunchroom sales and documentation. If all goes well we hope to have a new system that integrates with our current student management program and will allow for direct parent access to the account to be up & running when we return from Christmas Break.

# TROJANS



# Maroa Forsyth High School



*"A Proud Tradition of Excellence"*

## **Principal's Message**

Are we really this close to the holidays!!? The speed at which the school year is passing can be directly attributed to our hard-working and pleasant faculty and our respectful and fun loving student body. Both groups have been tremendous and have made one of the best fall seasons ever. Of course it is always helpful when our athletic teams and extra-curricular groups are experiencing success, as this tends to assist tremendously in putting the participants in good moods.

We have been fortunate to have many successes again this fall. If you have followed our Facebook page or Twitter accounts, you know that we are again fortunate to have some very talented students, some of which have been showcased in this newsletter.

Though the fall has been good to MFHS, last spring was equally, if not even better. If you recall our juniors (seniors now) set a school record for the highest average ACT score for MFHS (23.1). Preliminary results from the PARCC exam also indicate that our other students did well also.

Though not totally complete, it looks like MFHS students fared better than we feared. These numbers won't mean much but I will try to put it in perspective. Our English III

students had an average score of 747 compared to a state average of 732 and a PARCC (nationally) average of 739. Our Algebra II students had an average score of 740 compared to a state average of 717 and a PARCC average score of 719. More information to come on this as it becomes available.

Nice work TROJANS! I'm really proud of the academic culture we have created here at MFHS.

## **Student Spotlight**

Yuxing (Emily) Ma and Britta Braden are MFHS Art students that have acrylic paintings in the Millikin University High School Art Show 2015. The show will be on display at Kirkland Fine Arts Center Perkinson Gallery at Millikin November 2 through November 14, 2015. Emily's Painting is titled Asphodelus and Britta's is Passion. Both works were submitted by high school Art teacher, Kathleen Picchietti-Zimmerman and juried by the Millikin University Art Department for selection. An Awards Reception and Ceremony will be held Saturday, November 14 at Kirkland at 4 pm.



*-Emily Ma*



*-Britta Braden*

Congratulations to the following Maroa-Forsyth Musicians who auditioned and were selected to the Illinois Music Educators Association District Festival. These students will rehearse and perform a final concert on Saturday, November 21 at EIU.

*Britta Braden* (Tenor Sax)--Senior Band

*Alex Kuhn* (Percussion)--Senior Band

*Cameron Jones* (Violin)--Senior Orchestra

*Leia Jones* (Violin)--Senior Orchestra

*Emily Ma* (Violin)--Senior Orchestra

*Emily Weiss* (Soprano 2)--Senior Choir

## **Special People of the Month**

Student of the Month  
*Connor Aeilts*

Female Athlete of the Month  
*Reilly Fitzpatrick*

Male Athlete of the Month  
*Clayton Sprague*

Volunteer of the Month  
*Pat Hall*

# 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 October and part of November will not be allowed to participate the entire time.

Unfortunately we still have not received the results from the 2014-15 PARCC test. We do expect these results to come in very soon and hopefully we will be able to send them home before winter break.

I would like to encourage everyone to come out and see this years Middle School Musical, "The Lion King Jr". The choir will be holding two performances open to the public on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 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 Veterans Day Assembly on November 11<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup>. The band and choir will be

performing so we encourage parents to attend as well.

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, our MS choir will be performing the National Anthem at the Illinois State Men's Basketball game vs. Murray State. Our girls basketball team will also get the opportunity to play in a scrimmage during halftime. ISU will be selling tickets for all Maroa-Forsyth community members for \$5 per ticket. We encourage everyone to come to the Maroa-Forsyth Middle School day at Redbird Arena in Bloomington. Ticket ordering information will be given out to the students and placed on the Middle School website.

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 PBIS 1st quarter goal was to have less than 35 discipline referrals. I am pleased to report we met our goal by having 19 discipline referrals for the first quarter. As a reward, all middle school students had the opportunity to participate in field games. Our goal for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter will also be 35 or less referrals.

The students have also been receiving Star Bucks and Star Student awards for following our Code of Honor. In October, the students had the opportunity to purchase tickets for raffle prizes. Some of the prizes were, ISU athletic tickets, hockey tickets, and gift cards.

## Athletic News

Congratulations to the girls' 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball teams on winning seasons. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls will begin regional play on November 21<sup>st</sup> and their regional will be played at MFMS. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade regional will begin the week of November 30<sup>th</sup> and will be played in Heyworth.

The boys' basketball teams opened their season on November 5<sup>th</sup> with 2 wins over Heyworth. The boys play Sangamon Valley, Warrensburg, Meridian, Tolono, and Central A&M at home during the month of November. Please come out and support the teams. We will also be hosting the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Regional this season.

Volleyball season will be starting soon as well. Tryouts will begin in December and their first game is January 7<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in trying out for volleyball needs to make sure they have a current physical turned into the middle school office. Parents will also need to register their students on-line as well.

## Important Dates

### November

11<sup>th</sup>-Veterans Day assembly  
13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> MS Musical 7:00  
13<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Midterm  
18<sup>th</sup>-Girls' Basketball 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Night  
25<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup>-No School

### December

11<sup>th</sup> -MS Winter Dance 3:00-5:00  
15<sup>th</sup>-MS Band/Choir Winter Concert 7:00 at the MS  
17<sup>th</sup>-End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter  
18<sup>th</sup>—Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>-No School

# TROJANS



# Maroa Forsyth Grade School



## Principal's Message

It is hard to believe we are in the middle of the second quarter! This school year is going great for everybody.

This year we decided to take time to recognize academic achievements of our students. Teachers at each grade level set a list of criteria they wanted to recognize. Students received 1st quarter certificates during PE on October 29<sup>th</sup>. There were several hundred awards passed out including: straight A's, perfect attendance, no office referrals, sportsmanship, computer class participation, beginning band, and several more.

As the weather is beginning to get colder, it is very important to remind students to have appropriate hats, coats, and gloves here at school. When the playground is dry, we will be outside until the wind chill is below 10 degrees. Please make sure your child has these things at school so they can enjoy recesses with their friends.

Keep up the great work!

## Leader in Me News

The Leader in Me monthly focus is going very well. When students come out of our cafeteria there are two banners reminding them of the leadership traits we have already discussed.

In September, we studied how to Be Proactive. While

discussing this we talked about taking responsibility, "you are in charge of you", and not reacting to situations, but recognizing the opportunity.

In October, we focused on "Start With the End in Mind". We talked a lot about goal setting and creating an action plan to meet these goals. We have also established goals for November, including decreasing referrals and decreasing the amount of missing or late homework.

The focus for this month is "Put First Things First". We are discussing setting priorities. We will also talk to students about completing the most important things first.

## Drop-off/Pick-up Reminder

This is a good time to remind everyone about arrival and dismissal procedures. If you choose to drop off and pick up your children, we want you to remember the safety rules we have in place. Teachers will be outside of the school in front of the building in the mornings. Mr. Luther will be in front in the afternoons.

If you would like to walk your student to or from 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 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.

## A Note From Students

Submitted by: Coletin Towner and Alex Wolf

We are starting to collect recyclables from different classrooms and taking it home to recycle. We are in Mrs. McCool's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class, and we are trying to make a difference in the world. It is harder than it looks. We can use help taking the recyclables home every Friday. We would love help if you are interested in helping us with our journey to save the world!

## Important Dates

November 11-Veterans' Day Assembly (9:30)  
November 13-Mid-term  
November 20-Corey Basketball Jones Assembly  
November 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>-No School

# TROJANS