

# MAROA FORSYTH

## Home of the Trojans



Building a Better World One Student at a Time



## DISTRICT NEWSLETTER- May 2015

### Superintendent Comments

It's hard to believe we are entering the last month of school. It seems as if each year goes faster than the previous one.

Our High School Graduation is scheduled for Friday, May 22 at 7:30. Middle School Promotion will be held on May 28 at 6:30. The last day for student attendance will be Thursday, May 28.

As we discuss one school year coming to an end, we must also begin planning for the following school year. Registration for the 2015-2016 school year will be held on Wednesday, August 5 from 12:00-7:00 in all three buildings. More information on registration can be found at the website below.

<http://www.mfschools.org/unit/Unit/registration%20info%2015-16.pdf>

The first day for student attendance will be Thursday, August 20. The complete 2015-2016 calendar can be found at the website listed below.

[http://www.mfschools.org/unit/Unit/CAL20152016\(1\).pdf](http://www.mfschools.org/unit/Unit/CAL20152016(1).pdf)

### Board of Education

I would like to thank the three outgoing Board of Education Members for their service. Cyndi Harris has

served on the Board of Education for 16 years, Rob Jacobsen served 10 years and Kristin Sowa served for the past five years. The combined experience of over thirty years will be missed. I wish the outgoing members well, and again, your service to the District is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to congratulate the recently elected members to the Board of Education. Kristi Harjung, James Keith, Chad Ruwe and Lindsey Wise were recently elected to the Board Of Education. I look forward to working with the new members to address the issues facing the District.

The Board of Education meets the second Monday of each month at 7:00 in the high school. For more information on the School Board or to contact your School Board members please visit the following link.

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

### Retiring Faculty

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

Debbie Bland: Debbie most recently taught first grade and leaves with twenty

three years' experience in Maroa Forsyth.

Chris Hamilton: Chris is currently finishing her career by teaching middle school science for the District. She leaves us with twenty three years' experience as well.

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

### Maroa Forsyth Foundation

The Maroa Forsyth School District is very fortunate to have tremendous community and parental support. One of the most supportive organizations to the District is the Maroa Forsyth School District Foundation. The Foundation is a not-for-profit (IRS 501(c)(3) corporation, organized under the laws of the State of Illinois, that provides a long-term, self-sustaining financial structure to enhance the educational programs of the Maroa Forsyth Community Unit Schools.

To make a tax deductible contribution or to learn more about the Maroa Forsyth School District Foundation, please visit their website at:

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

# TROJANS



# Maroa Forsyth High School

*"A Proud Tradition of Excellence"*



## Principal's Message

It seems like everyone that comes into the office these days comments, "The school year is almost over!" I suppose they are right as far as the calendar goes, but at the high school, there is still a lot yet to take place. Our spring activity seasons are still going full steam ahead and hope to finish with a bang in the post-season. Prom and Post-Prom take place May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The baccalaureate service for the senior class is May 10<sup>th</sup> at the United Methodist Church in Maroa. Our annual senior trip to Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri will be May 16-18. We will squeeze in our Senior Exams on the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. The Academic Awards night will be May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. Graduation practice will be at 10:00 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, followed by the graduation ceremony for this **OUTSTANDING** class of seniors at 7:30. Finally, freshmen-juniors will take their finals on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Whew! There is a lot left here for us to do before we can begin to think about summer.

On a different note, our faculty utilized our school improvement day to finalize our school improvement plan for the 2015-16 school year. Teachers also collaborated in their content areas and across grade levels to align our curriculum vertically, discuss and develop a plan for K-12 writing, and discuss best practices and other strategies within specific content areas. Overall, it was needed time for collaboration within departments and across grade levels.

We have also been fortunate recently to host two assemblies that delivered messages related to character, family, and the importance of making good decisions.

Also, if you are in the school this month, disregard that strange smell. That's Ms. Griffith's Anatomy classes performing dissections on cats.

## **Activities**

Spring at MFHS has become synonymous with **MUSICAL**. This year was no exception and Mr. Weisenborn and team presented the classic, *West Side Story*. If you were one of the more than 1,000 attendees, you got to witness an exceptional production and outstanding performances by the 70 students involved in the production.



That said, events of this magnitude are dependent on an abundance of volunteers. Mr. Weisenborn would like to thank Kelly Ritter, Mike and Gretchen Kirby, Kelly Berry, Julie Baldwin, Val Jordan, Jack and Laura Grider, Shelly Oliver, and Barry Hitchens. Special thanks to Mrs. Crouch and her students for the hours spent building our wonderful set.

The prairie plot is nearing completion and for Wesley Dunham (plot manager) that has been the key to his *State*

*Winning* Environmental Science and Natural Resource SAE. Wesley will be competing at National FFA Convention in October with this project. Also growing, are the Horticultural student projects in the greenhouse.

This spring we again opened up our Greenhouse to the Annual Plant Sale and we would like to thank our community for supporting us and the students. Plants aren't the only thing growing these days. We have a group of freshman: Peyton Ruwe, Gage Kapraun, and Reed Jostes who have turned their Intro to Ag units into real life experiences and have begun raising chickens for both eggs and meat production.

Cole Fredrickson, Jaret Duff, and Gage Kapraun were all individuals winners, Peyton Ruwe and Michael Fawley were second place individuals with our Second place Ag Mechanics team. Alyssa Garner also won individual honors at the Section Horticulture contest where the team placed 1st overall.

## **Pickleball Rules!**

At MFHS, Mrs. Finck and Mr. Woodhall have grown a culture that loves pickleball. Our top teams this year were Kira Jackson / Carly Hitchens Jack Orr / Jairon Ritter Jack Hockaday / Sim Singh



# TROJANS



# Maroa Forsyth Middle School



## Principal's Message

Overall, our first round of PARCC testing went very well. The End of the Year PARCC test will begin on May 4<sup>th</sup> at the middle school. The testing schedule is as follows:

- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: May 4-5
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade: May 6-7
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: May 8 and 11

We are very pleased to announce we had four students advance to the finals of the National History Bee. Those students are 8<sup>th</sup> grader Shubha Verma, 7<sup>th</sup> graders Jerry Hong and Lui Cole, and 6<sup>th</sup> grader Rabya Hasnain. We would also like to congratulate Coach Corey and the Scholastic Bowl team. They recently won the Okaw Conference Championship for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row.

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 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the High School Cafetorium. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be going to Six Flags on May 9<sup>th</sup> and our next dance will be held on May 15<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:00. The Middle School Awards assembly will be on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:10 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 19<sup>th</sup> in the middle school gym. Finally, 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion will be held on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the High School Gym. Promotion practice will be held on May 27<sup>th</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 toward next year, don't forget registration will be on August 5<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-7:00 throughout the district. The first day of school will be on August 20<sup>th</sup>. All incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders need to make sure they have a 6<sup>th</sup> grade physical, Tdap immunization, meningitis immunization, and a dental exam. 8<sup>th</sup> graders will need to have a physical to enter high school.

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

We have had another outstanding year at the middle school. Recently the students got to participate in a "Throwback Game" as a reward for not receiving homework or discipline referrals over a months' time. We will have many other rewards coming up including a silent auction, electronic lunches, and free candy.

To celebrate the students' hard work in and out of the classroom we will have the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Celebration on the last day of school, May 28<sup>th</sup>. We will have multiple activities for the students to participate in and they will also receive their yearbooks on this day.

## Athletic News

The track season will quickly be coming to an end. We will be hosting the sectionals on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> and the State meet will

be on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> in East Peoria. The season ending Track Awards will be handed out during morning announcements on Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</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 14<sup>th</sup>, at the High School starting at 3:00. To set up an appointment, please call the High School office.

The first day for baseball and softball tryouts next year is August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Any incoming 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are eligible 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

- 5<sup>th</sup>-Choir Concert/Talent Show @ HS
- 9<sup>th</sup>-Eighth Grade trip
- 15<sup>th</sup>-Spring Dance 3:00-5:00
- 16<sup>th</sup>-Track Sectinal @ MFMS
- 19<sup>th</sup>-Band Concert @ MS
- 26<sup>th</sup>-MS Awards-2:00
- 28<sup>th</sup>-Last day of school
- 28<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion 6:30
- 29<sup>th</sup>-Report Cards picked up/mailed home

# TROJANS



# Maroa Forsyth Grade School



## Principal's Message

It is hard to believe this school year is coming to an end. It seems that every week there are several activities for different grades. There are two more Spring Musicals. The fifth through eighth grade band concert is coming up in May. We also have a lot of field trips still planned throughout May.

This year we will again mail all of the report cards after the last institute day (May 29<sup>th</sup>). If you have moved, please make sure we get your address updated to get these report cards to you.

With all of the field trips coming up it is important to make sure that your permission slips are returned to school prior to the day of the trip. We want all students to have an enjoyable, educational day on their field trip. If you have lost a permission slip, please contact the office and we will gladly assist you to get a new one.

The Community Club has conducted several book giveaways this year. We are very lucky to have the support of this organization. They have provided great class parties this year, the Back to School Carnival, school supply kits, financial support for class projects, as well as the Inflatable Day that is coming up May 28<sup>th</sup>. We owe this

organization a big Thanks for all they do.

ArtPals has taught monthly art lessons in our classrooms. They also conduct the Square One fundraiser in the fall. This year they provided us with our Scientist Assembly. If you are interested in assisting with this please stop by their table at registration.

## Registration Information

Registration for the 2015-2016 school year is scheduled for August 5<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 7:00 pm. Registration information will be sent home with students the last week of this year. Please complete this paperwork prior to getting to the school, to help speed the process up. At registration you will be able to get information about the YMCA Before and After School program, Community Club, and ArtPals.

Volunteer sign up sheets will also be available at registration for Community Club and ArtPals. These groups are always looking for more parent involvement.

## School Bus Safety

When students are waiting for the bus, students need to 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 assist students if needed. It is very important that students sit with their back against the seat. Please remind them to keep their bags or other items out of the aisle. When getting off of the bus, please walk away from the bus and if you need to cross the street do it in front of the 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.

The bus rules help students safely get to and from school. Please remind students of these rules and especially when school starts in the fall.

## Important Dates

- May 4-15 PARCC testing
- May 5-Kindergarten Orientation
- May 6-3<sup>rd</sup> grade to Macon County History Museum
- May 14-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Concert
- May 19-5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Band Concert
- May 19-Kindergarten to Children's Museum and Scovill Zoo
- May 22-4<sup>th</sup> grade to New Salem
- May 25-Memorial Day (No school)
- May 26-K-2 Field Day
- May 27-3-5 Field Day
- May 28-Inflatable Day
- May 28-Last day of student attendance
- May 29-Teacher Institute Day