

# MAROA FORSYTH

## Home of the Trojans



Building a Better World One Student at a Time



### DISTRICT NEWSLETTER- March 2016

#### District Calendar

There was an error in the High School Agenda Books on the dates listed for the District's Spring Break. There is no school on Friday, March 25, 2016. School will be in session on Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. The dates were properly reported in the Middle School and Elementary School Agenda Books. We apologize for any issues this error created.

#### PARCC Testing

The State of Illinois has modified how the PARCC test will be administered this spring. There are no longer two testing windows. There is a single testing window that is set by the individual Districts. Maroa Forsyth has scheduled our testing window for April 4- April 29.

In addition to reducing the number of testing sessions, there has also been a reduction in the number of tests to be administered. Students in third through eighth grades will be assessed using fewer assessments in both math and language arts. High school students in English III and Algebra II will also complete fewer assessments.

New to the PARCC assessment this year is a science assessment that will

be administered to students in fifth and eighth grades and high school students who are enrolled in Biology I. This new assessment is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards.

The administration feels the changes are a step in the right direction for the PARCC to become a more useful assessment tool.

For more information on the PARCC Assessment, you are encouraged to visit the PARCC website. The link is included below:

<http://www.isbe.net/assessments/parcc.htm>

#### Spring Driving Tips

As we approach the warmer months we would like to remind you that children will be much more active with outside activities. We would urge drivers to use extra caution in situations where kids may be present. The following are some suggested safety measures from the *National Safe Routes to School Program*.

- Slow down and obey all traffic laws and speed limits, both in school zones and in neighborhoods.
- Comply with local school drop-off and pick-up procedures for

the safety of all children accessing the school.

- Watch for children walking or bicycling near schools, parks and in neighborhoods.
- Prepare to stop for a school bus when the yellow lights are flashing. Use caution when you see the yellow hazard lights activated.
- Stop for a school bus when the red overhead lights are activated, regardless of the direction from which the driver is approaching.
- Watch for children playing or gathering near bus stops. Also, watch for children that may be late arriving for the bus, who may dart into the street without looking for traffic.

#### Mark Your Calendars

High School Graduation will be Friday, May 27, 2016 at 7:30 in the High School Gym. Please come out and help us congratulate the Class of 2016 as they finish this chapter in their lives.

# TROJANS



# Maroa Forsyth High School

*"A Proud Tradition of Excellence"*



## Principal's Message

Winter is still holding on, but MFHS is moving on towards spring! Now that our winter seasons are wrapped up, our spring sports and activities have begun. It won't be long and we will hear the crack of the bat or the sound of fans cheering at our girls' soccer match or boys' and girls' track meets. I know the students look forward to the warmer weather, getting outdoors, and of course, spring break (March 26-April 4)!

MFHS faculty and staff are gearing up for April, which has quickly becoming known as our "testing month". Both PARCC and the ACT are conducted during this month and they each pose their own scheduling challenges. This year the PARCC test will test Biology students as well as English III and Algebra II students.

This is the first year in many that the state of Illinois has not paid for all students to take the ACT. That said, we had 70 out of our 85 juniors, pay for and sign up to take the exam here on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Student Spotlight

Congratulations to Emily Ma for being selected as a candidate to compete for the chance to become a U.S. Presidential Scholar!! She was selected by the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars and the U.S. Department of Education.

Our Math team has again advanced to the state competition at U of I on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Medalist include:** Shubha Verma, Reilly Fitzpatrick, Katerina Gorou , Alex Kuhn, Yasir Hasnain , Neha Atluri, Saamia Salik, Charlie He, Emily Ma, Isra Hasnain, Alex Kuhn, Maddie Hall, & Isra Hasnain.



Our students also participated in a water drive for Flint Michigan, that resulted in over 100 cases of water being sent to the city of Flint.

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, we hosted our 3rd Annual Talent Showcase. We had a variety of performing talent that included singing, dancing, musical instruments, and even comedy. The competition was judge in part by three judges and by audience choice. Though all acts were entertaining and well done, Lindsey Austin and Jared Anderson tied for first place!



On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, we hosted our first Pack the Place for Scholastic Bowl as we took on Okaw rivals St. Joe and St. Thomas More. The Trojans handled both teams decisively and continue on their romp that includes Macon County titles for both JV and Varsity. We host the IHSA scholastic bowl sectional on March 7<sup>th</sup>, and have a good chance to make it to the IHSA state tournament.



## Special People of the Month

**Student of the Month-**  
Mason Ricketts  
**Athlete of the Month**  
Bryant Ahrens  
**Volunteer of the Month**  
Beth Ruwe

# TROJANS



# Maroa Forsyth Middle School



## Principal's Message

Over the next couple of months students throughout the state will participate in PARCC testing. This is the second year of PARCC testing and it is a state wide assessment. This year students will only have one testing window to complete. Students at the middle school will test on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be 6 total tests (3 ELA and 3 Math) and each grade will take one test per day. Please do your best to not schedule appointments on these days in order to make sure your student is in attendance. If your student will be absent please let us know in advance so we can reschedule their test. Grade level testing times are below.

6<sup>th</sup> Grade: 8:15-10:20

8<sup>th</sup> Grade: 10:25-12:30

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: 12:45-2:55

We would like to congratulate Maya Jyothinagaram, Rabya Hasnain, and Anthony Lee on advancing to the Regional Spelling Bee. We would also like to congratulate our Math Counts team on their second place finish in the regional competition.

We held our History Bee in January and we have six students who have qualified to participate in the Regional History Bee in St. Louis. Those students are Rabya Hasnain, Lui Cole, Roman King, Aidan Lee, Maya Jyothinagaram, and Maddie Madsen

Finally our Varsity and JV Scholastic Bowl team has gotten off to a great start again this year and the Varsity team is currently undefeated. The team

will be competing for the Okaw Conference championship on April 23<sup>th</sup>.

We would like to thank all the students who participated in our "Beat the Winter Blues" days. We were able to raise around \$500 that will be used to purchase prizes for the end of the year drawings.

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 a good job of meeting their PBIS expectations. Students who have less than 2 referrals during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter will be eligible to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter celebration. Students who received 2 or more referrals will be withheld from part of the celebration but will be able to participate, just for a shorter period of time. The celebration will be held on March 11<sup>th</sup> and we will hold the annual staff vs. students volleyball and basketball games. Students will also be able to use their Star Bucks during the celebration to spin the prize wheel and purchase items.

Any student who did not receive a referral during the month of February will be rewarded with a frozen treat during lunch during the first week of March. If you would like to see a complete list of the February Star Students please go to the middle school website.

## Athletic News

Both the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball teams are having very good seasons. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders are playing for the Regional Championship on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade regional will be held March 8-March 10 in Lincoln. We are also hosting the 7<sup>th</sup> grade 3A State Volleyball tournament at the HS on March 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

The track season will be starting on March 7<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 and be signed up on-line. We will be hosting 8 track meets this year including the Boys Okaw Conference meet, and the IESA Sectional. If you would like to volunteer to help at the meets please contact Coach Peters or Coach Livingood.

## Important Dates

### March

4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>: Grade Spring Dance

7<sup>th</sup>-MS track practice begins

8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball

Regional @ Lincoln

11<sup>th</sup>: End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

12<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Volleyball

State Tourney @ MFHS

18<sup>th</sup>: Report Cards sent home

18<sup>th</sup>: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Party

25<sup>th</sup>-April 1<sup>st</sup>: Spring Break

### April

6<sup>th</sup>: 2:03 Dismissal

12<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>: PARCC Testing

18<sup>th</sup>: No School

23<sup>rd</sup>-SchoBo Conf. @ Meridian

27<sup>th</sup>-SchoBo Regional

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# Maroa Forsyth Grade School



## Principal's Message

Spring is almost here. With the change in seasons a lot of things begin happening at school. Students are beginning to have more field trips, PARCC testing is coming up, and a lot of classes start having projects and activities.

The PARCC testing will begin after Spring Break. This testing is for all students in third through fifth grade. The test for third and fourth grade is in English/Language Arts and Math. Fifth grade tests in English/Language Arts, Math, and Science. All sessions of this test are given on the computer. The results of these tests are used to plan future instructional needs in the school.

As the weather is changing, 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 unless 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.

## Leader in Me News

The Leader in Me monthly focus is Synergize. This is an important skill for students to continue to practice and learn in and out of school.

We are discussing, when working together everyone is able to accomplish more.

## Dismissal Changes

Any day that a students' dismissal plan changes, we must receive a note specifically telling us of their new plan. Please send notes in the morning, so teachers can get these to the office, to be documented to help us make sure students are getting to the right location after school.

If you have to change your dismissal procedure during the school day please call as soon as possible so we are able to get the information to the teachers before dismissal.

If you need to make a consistent change to the dismissal plan, please come into the office and complete a Transportation Change Form, so we are able to get this information to the drivers, and we don't have to get daily notes.

## Note from the Nurse

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

All students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade will need to get a meningitis vaccine prior to starting sixth grade. If you have any questions please contact, Ms. Henson.

## Bus Stop Safety

Student safety is the highest priority of our school district. When students are waiting at the bus stop, they need to be off of the roads. Students should be paying attention and wait to approach the bus until the driver opens the door, and the stop arm is out. Students should then get onto the bus in a single file line.

Younger students should have an adult there to help them when the bus arrives. These younger students should also have someone meet them from the bus stop.

We want all students to safely to get to and from school.

## Important Dates

- March 11-End of third quarter
- March 15-MFGS will be a Polling Place
- March 18-Report Cards sent home
- March 24-Spring Pictures
- March 25-No School
- April 4-School Resumes
- April 6-2:13 dismissal
- April 7-PARCC testing begins
- April 18-No School
- April 22-Fourth quarter mid-terms