

MAROA FORSYTH

Home of the Trojans



Building a Better World One Student at a Time



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER- March 2017

Superintendent's Comments

It is hard to believe the end of the third quarter is right around the corner March 10th. It seems we just returned from our winter break.

We would like to remind everyone school will not be in session the week of March 27-31 for the annual spring break. Following our return from Spring Break, it is just eight short weeks until the 2016-2017 school year is wrapped up.

Be sure to look for more detailed end of the year information in the May addition of the District newsletter.

Grade School Bond Refinance

In early February the Maroa Forsyth Board of Education approved a resolution authorizing the refinance of the outstanding bonds that were used to fund the grade school facility. This refinancing will save District taxpayers approximately \$450,000 over the remaining ten years on the outstanding bonds. The passage of this resolution marks the end to an almost year-long process that was explored and recommended with the assistance of First Midstate in an attempt to save the District taxpayers money.

While some of the savings were lost due to numerous delays in the process, the savings are still substantial and will be of great benefit to the District moving forward.

For those of you that are unfamiliar with financing in the public sector, bonds are issued to fund major expenses or capital projects, similar to a homeowner taking out a mortgage to purchase a home. The decline in interest rates since the original issuance of the bonds allowed for this refinance possibility and savings that are to be realized. This process mirrors what many homeowners have done with their mortgage over the last several years in an attempt to reduce their payment and/or save money on the cost of home ownership. If you would like more information on the bonding or refinancing process, please do not hesitate to contact the unit office.

Track Available for Community Use

With Spring around the corner some of us will look to become more active. We would like to remind community members the all-weather track is available for community use from 6:00 AM to 8:00 AM and from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Monday through Friday (as long as the facility is not being used

for competition). The facility is available on the weekends from dawn to dusk. Entrance to the facility is available to the west of the main entrance through an individual walkthrough gate.

Maroa Forsyth School District Foundation

The Maroa Forsyth School District Foundation is currently looking for additional members to serve on its Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving on the Foundation Board, please contact the Unit office. For more information on the Focus and Function of the Foundation, please visit their website at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/mfdistrictfoundation/>

Mark Your Calendars

High School Graduation will be Friday, May 26, 2017 at 7:30 in the High School Gym. Please come out and help us congratulate the Class of 2017 as they finish this chapter in their lives.

Follow us on Twitter!

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@MFHSAthletics
Extracurricular Scores/Info

TROJANS



Maroa Forsyth High School

"A Proud Tradition of Excellence"



Principal's Message

The High School faculty and staff are gearing up for April and the SAT test. This is the first year the State of Illinois is requiring all Juniors to take the SAT. The test will be given on April 5th and it is very important that all Juniors are in attendance that day. Please check to make sure you do not have any conflicting appointments on this day. The SAT will start right after school begins on April 5th and all Juniors will be released to go home when it is finished. Junior parents will receive more information on the SAT soon through an email.

As we approach the 4th quarter, we have a number of activities I want everyone to be aware of. This year's musical, "Legally Blonde" will be on April 7th-9th. Prom will be held on April 29th. National Honors Society Induction will be on May 7th at 3:00. Awards Night will be on May 17th at 6:30. Seniors going on the Senior Trip will leave on May 20th and return on May 22nd. Baccalaureate Services will be held at the Maroa Christian Church on May 24th at 6:30. Finally, Graduation for the Class of 2017 will be on May 26th at 7:30.

Big thanks go out to our FFA program who provided breakfast and lunch for the faculty and staff last week. Recently our FFA was featured on WAND and have hosted over 100 students from central Illinois at MFHS for competitions. The FFA Awards Banquet will be on May 11th. Make sure you tell an FFA member to keep up the great work!!

Student Spotlight

The Scholastic Bowl team has had another great season finishing 2nd in the Masonic Sectional Tournament and both the Varsity and JV won the Macon County Tournament.

This year's WYSE team competed and won their regional and will be competing in their sectional on March 9th. Individual highlights include:

- Yasir Hasnain 1st in both math and English; Katerina Gorou 1st in both biology and chemistry; Jerry Hong 2nd in engineering graphics and 3rd in math; Anthony Lee 2nd in math and 3rd in engineering graphics; Murt Jatoi 2nd in math and 3rd in chemistry; Emaan Dawood 3rd in English; Jennifer Wisner 2nd in English; Reilly Fitzpatrick 2nd in biology; Michael Fawley 3rd in chemistry

The Math Team earned a 2nd place finish at the regional competition and hopefully will be competing in the state competition. Individual highlights include:

- 1st place tie for Jerry Hong and Anthony Lee in Alg. 1 individual comp and 1st place for the whole Alg. 1 team; 1st place for Yasir Hasnain in Alg. 2 and 1st place for the whole Alg. 2 team; 1st place for Kat Gorou in Pre-Calc.; 1st place for our Jr./Sr. 8-person team; 1st place for our Jr./Sr. 2-person team of Alex Kuhn and Yasir Hasnain; and 1st place for our Oral Presentation Team of Alex Kuhn and Keagen Smith.

Two MFHS students, Ray Cowgill and Alyssa Speagle, have been recognized by the Mid Central Illinois Region of the Scholastic Art Awards. To view their artwork visit our website at

<http://mfhs.mfschools.net/>

Athletics/Activities

The winter sports seasons have officially wrapped up. Girls basketball player junior Kaylee Robinson, advanced to the sectionals in the IHSA 3 Point Competition. For the boys, freshmen Cody Marsh and Keagen Smith advanced to the sectionals in the IHSA 3 Point Competition. The boys will shoot on Friday, March 3rd at Monticello 6:00.

The spring sports teams are now underway. For the first time in a long time, both the baseball and softball teams were able to practice outside on their respective fields on the first two days of practice!! The varsity boys begin their season at Meridian on March 13th while the varsity and JV softball team will host Sullivan on March 13th. Both the boys and girls game will start at 4:30 that day. The JV baseball team will begin play on March 18th at 11:00 am when they host Mahomet-Seymour. Boys and girls track will host their first meet on April 4th while the WLMF girl's soccer co-op will begin on March 13th also at the annual St. Teresa Tournament. The LSA-MF boy's tennis team will open up action in early April.

UPCOMING DATES:

April 26th- 2017 Fall All Sports Meeting- 6:00 pm- Football, Volleyball, Golf, Boys Soccer, Boys and Girls Cross Country
May 23rd- DMH Sports Physicals at MFHS- 3:00 pm- 5:00 pm

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Maroa Forsyth Middle School



Principal's Message

Over the next couple of months students throughout the state will participate in PARCC testing. This is our third year of PARCC testing and it is a state wide assessment. Students at the middle school will test on April 11th, 12th, 13th, 18th 19th, and 20th. There will be 6 total tests (3 ELA and 3 Math) and each grade will take one test per day. The 8th grade students will also be required to take a Science Assessment in early May. 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.

6th Grade: 8:15-10:20
8th Grade: 10:25-12:30
7th Grade: 12:45-2:55

We would like to congratulate Maya Jyothinagaram and Rabya Hasnain 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 and for qualifying for the state competition.

We held our History Bee in December and we have six students who have qualified to participate in the Regional History Bee in St. Louis. Those students are Rabya Hasnain, Mavis Wang, Michael Applebee, Qasim Jatoi, Grant Vandevoorde and Reanna Munjoy

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 22nd here at MFMS. We will also be hosting the Scholastic Bowl regional this year on April 26th.

The Middle School will be hosting a Band Festival on April 6th for 7th and 8th grade band members. Cerro Gordo and Warrensburg-Latham will join us and there will be a combined concert that evening.

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

PBIS News

Unfortunately, the middle school students have been struggling to meet their PBIS expectations. During 1st quarter the MS students received 19 discipline referrals which was great. Our goal is to have 35 or fewer referrals per quarter. Since 1st quarter we have not done nearly as well. The students received 70 referrals during 2nd quarter and we have over 60 referrals so far this quarter. A decision on whether the students will receive their 3rd quarter celebration will be made next week. Typically, we will hold the annual staff vs. students volleyball and basketball games. Students are also 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 3rd quarter will be rewarded with a frozen treat during lunch during this week. If you would like to see a complete list of the

February Star Students please go to the middle school website.

Athletic News

Congratulations to the 8th Grade Boys Basketball team on a fantastic season that ended at the state tournament. Both the 7th and 8th grade volleyball teams also had very good seasons and the 8th grade regional will start Saturday at Meridian.

The track season will be starting on March 6th. 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 4 track meets this year including the Girls Okaw Conference meet. If you would like to volunteer to help at the meets, please contact Coach Peters or Coach Livingood.

Important Dates

March

3rd: Spring Dance
6th-MS track practice begins
4th-7th: 8th Grade Volleyball Regional @ Meridian
10th: End of 3rd Quarter
17th: Report Cards sent home
27th-31st: Spring Break

April

5th: 2:03 Dismissal
6th: Band Festival at MFMS
11th-20th: PARCC Testing
14th: No School
17th: No School
22nd: SchoBo Conf. @ MFMS
24th: No School
27th-SchoBo Regional @MFMS

TROJANS



Maroa Forsyth Grade School

Principal's Message

Spring is coming! A lot of things are happening at the grade school and it is getting busy! Students will have spring field trips, PARCC testing, and a lot of other classroom activities are coming up.

PARCC is the state required testing. Students in third through eighth grades will take the tests in English/Language Arts and Math. We will begin this testing on April 10th. Fifth grade students will also take the required assessments later in the spring.

It has been a very warm winter and we have been outside much more than usual. Please make sure students are dressed for the weather. We will be outside whenever possible.

Leader in Me

Our Leader in Me wall is really filling up. Students get their picture taken if they collect 10 Caught Being a Leader tickets. These pictures are being hung each month. We encourage you to take a look at the wall and find your child's picture. We will give pictures back to students at the end of the year.

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.

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. 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.

Note from the Nurse

All students in kindergarten or second grade need to have a current dental exam by May 15th. 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 5th grade will need to get a meningitis vaccine prior to starting sixth grade. If you have questions on the requirements for each grade please call 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 at the bus stop.

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

Important Dates

March 10-End of third quarter
March 17-Report Cards distributed
March 23-K & 1 Concert
March 27-31-Spring Break
April 3-School resumes
April 5-2:13 Dismissal
April 10-PARCC begins
April 14-No School
April 17-No School
April 21-4th Quarter mid-terms
April 24-No School
April 27-2 & 3 Concert
May 11-4th Grade Concert
May 18-5th Grade Concert

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