

Dear Staff,

Dog gone it! They're back! I thought I'd seen the last of them the last time I dealt with them. They were never invited. They eat too much when they're here. And they don't share. The bad news is that racoons are back at my birdfeeders! I know you are probably thinking, "If that's the biggest thing he has to worry about, he's a lucky guy!" And I'll admit, I am! But if you live within five miles of the golf course and are feeding the racoons, please don't! ☺ Thank the Lord



we are the Tigers and not the Racoons! I would have a major conflict of interest.



Nettle Creek Family of Schools

Congratulations and a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Cline and her singing Tigers. They participated in the Circle The State With Song concert this weekend and were fantastic! Thank you, Ms. Cline, for making this possible for both elementary and Jr. high choir students!



Since January, Dr. Jennifer McCormick is serving as the Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction. She writes a regular newsletter that shares what's going on in Indianapolis in terms of Indiana Education current events. You can subscribe to her newsletter at https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/INDOE/subscriber/new?qs=INDOE_1. Her newsletters are brief, comprehensive and a great source of information.

We send tips of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Oliger, Mr. Templin and his employees at Dot Foods, Inc. and the folks at Junior Achievement for holding a half-day seminar for Junior and Senior students this past week. The event focused on the importance of developing soft skills such as Initiative, Perseverance and Teamwork for future success whether students are headed toward employment or advanced education (or both) after they graduate. The group's message was well-received by students. We appreciate it when the community comes in and reinforces lessons the students receive in classrooms. Sometimes, it's hearing the same message from people outside of school that will make the ideas take root.



February 1 was Student Count Day in Indiana. Each school corporation's funding for January through June is based on the number of students enrolled on that date. Here is a look at Nettle Creek's student enrollment trend including the most recent figure. While we'll work together to continue to assure all children are well-served, we need to take a creative look at our operations.

| Student Enrollment | |
|--|---------|
| October 2015 | 1115.76 |
| February 2016 | 1098.88 |
| October 2016 | 1106.56 |
| February 2017 | 1088.14 |
| Since 2013: | |
| We have lost 47.86 students. Each student enrolled is valued at @ \$5,500.00 | |
| Staffing Changes: | |
| We have lost 2 classroom teachers. | |
| We have added one curriculum director/instructional coach | |
| We have added back one librarian | |
| Every employee has received pay increases. | |

Ms. Kaiser and Ms. Ullery are a great team at HES! Together, they hatched a plan where students were assigned to tables at lunch with the purpose of making new friends. Their activity called, "No One Eats Alone" was a great way to mix things up a little providing K-6 students a chance to GROW @ THE CREEK and stretch a little, socially. Other staff

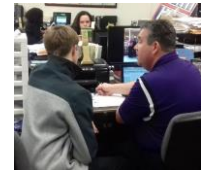
members volunteered their lunchtime asking the groups prepared questions that kept the conversation among students lively and the experience fun. Ms. Corman was one of the volunteers, and afterward she said, "Huge thank you to Claire and Allison for organizing and ensuring that every student had a great lunch today! I loved how students at all tables were talking, laughing, and building friendships! If even through the craziness one new friendship was made, it was all worth it!! Thanks again for putting our kids first!! :)" We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Ullery, Ms. Kaiser and staff volunteers for trying something new as we attend to the education of the whole child at NCSC!



Speaking of a great team, we send a tip of the Tiger's tail to the teachers at the Jr./Sr. high for trying something new and completing a round of individual student conferences centered around the recent release of their MAP test scores. Teachers in every department were assigned a roster of students to meet with and to discuss school achievement. Ms. Swain modeled a typical conversation with teachers



beforehand, and then teachers personalized the conversation for each of their students and helped students set learning goals that will be measured by the final MAP test of the year. While the conversations focused on Reading and Math achievement, the



process took advantage of the close relationship teachers in all departments have with their students. Research shows clearly that when a student is supported in this way by an adult with whom they have a close relationship, effort increases as does learning. Thank you, Jr./Sr. high teachers, for taking this on and motivating students one at a time! As achievement continues to rise, we won't wonder why.

We send a quick shout out to the HES Math Bowl team as they continue to advance in regional competition. We understand that HES is reorganizing March Mathness again this year to make learning mathematics fun! Why not have a little fun along with GROWING @ THE CREEK in math?!

Ms. Hokey and Ms. Morgan are challenging the elementary staff to achieve 80% of their students passing ISTEP+ and 80% reaching Individual Projected MAP RIT Scores in Reading, Language and Math. Theirs is quite a vision! To accomplish this goal Ms. Hokey and her staff are re-imagining how they might better serve children. Their past two Condensed Days have laid some important groundwork by identifying the strengths the staff possesses that will be the tools they will use to build their program. One of the posters from their session stated, "The paradigm of We: We can do it, We can cooperate, We can combine our talents and abilities and create something greater together." One of the attributes the staff identified among themselves that included ten or twelve other strengths was Supportiveness. We wish HES the very best! You have everything it takes to take your game to the next level. The rest of us are cheering on the sidelines for you as you formulate your playbook for the years ahead!!



Yours for another successful week with children!

WD

