

Dear Staff,

Let's start this week by sending tips of the Tiger's tail to all of the winter coaching staff members for providing students in both buildings with great opportunities to learn lessons in ways different than in our classrooms. While each winter sport fielded great teams, the Courier-Times recognized Mr. Slagle's seventh-grade girls basketball team today for their 14-0 game record and for winning their county tourney. As I



predicted, the boys basketball team and Mr. Jones treated all of us to an incredibly exciting game last Friday night. A tied score at the buzzer took the game into



overtime. The size of Friday's crowd had to be a record-breaker. The western end of Wayne County would be in a world of hurt if we didn't have the size gym we do. It was standing room only on both sides of the court. Thanks to everyone, particularly Ms. Bartlett and Mr. Keesling, for running another great Sectional. Both Ms. Bartlett and Mr. Keesling work with the coaching staff of every NCSC team all year coordinating many aspects of the practices and competitions so that everything runs smoothly. We appreciate that there is a lot of hard work that most of the rest of us don't know about that results in these events being a lot of fun for students, staff and our community!



Speaking of events, NCSC is sponsoring a business community event to say thank you to businesses who sponsor the School Is Cool attendance incentive program in the Nettle Creek area and in Wayne County. School Is Cool is a program sponsored by the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce that encourages students to obtain perfect school attendance. The Chamber provides a bicycle as an attendance incentive at HES. The Chamber also holds a drawing for a car/cash and other prizes for county students including those at HJr./Sr.H who come to school every day. On Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:00P.M. The Chamber will hold its business networking event at Hagerstown Jr./Sr. High School. Students in BPA, National Honer Society, the New Castle Career Center and our Ag program will share information about their projects with these business community visitors. Information we will feature includes the high school's recent record-setting graduation rate. We will make the connection that exists between good student attendance and high school graduation. I anticipate that for many of those who attend, this will be their first visit to our Jr./Sr. high school. If you are helping with this event, "This Tip's For You!" ☺

Later this spring, NCSC will be mailing out an over-sized postcard to everyone within shouting distance that will share some of the great things going on in our schools. For families who are already Tigers, the card is designed to help them feel good about the decision they've made to enroll their children here. For families who are not currently Tigers, they will be encouraged to join us. While we could write a book, a postcard will have to do. Information includes a focus on our TAG program and some of the unique and higher level courses we offer. On March 15th, a photographer from the company will be in both buildings snapping photos to include on the card. Anything you can do to encourage



students to look sharp is appreciated. This is a two-for-one opportunity in that all photos taken that day become the property of NCSC, and we'll use them to update the photos on our website.

We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Mr. Lester, Mr. Meek and Mr. Sloniker for being chosen as this year's ISTAR teachers. This regional event is an opportunity where top-performing seniors in area high schools recognize the teachers who they feel had the greatest influence in their success. Congratulations to all three gentlemen for this well-deserved recognition.



Let's take a minute to update everyone on the work Ms. Kaiser, Ms. Olinger and Ms. Sewell are doing providing leadership on the Lilly counselor grant. As a result of winning the planning grant, the NCSC steering committee has \$30,000 to invest in building the background knowledge task force members need to write a winning implementation grant. If the group's application is successful, it will bring



\$100,000 over four years to Nettle Creek to support student services. A unique feature of our implementation grant is that Wayne County school corporations have come together to try a regional approach in concert with Community In Schools. Alongwith our counselorsm task force members include NCSC administrators,

teachers, parents, community members and students from both buildings. They are using planning grant funds to learn about researched best practices for school counseling. Local steering team members are attending conferences and visiting exemplary school counseling programs to bring back to our group bits and pieces that they will customize and include in our grant implementation application. We wish them continued success and safe travels!

Administrators continue to work on staffing for the coming year. The Board's attorney will meet with Board members on Wednesday to bring them up to date on staffing law from outside the corporation. Ms. Locke is invited, and I'll ask her to join me in sharing afterward the information that Mr. Cross covers. You can help with staffing! If you are thinking about retirement or about leaving the corporation for other reasons, would you please let me know? Sharing this information at this time would be very helpful. Thank you!



We send tips of the Tiger's tail to everyone who worked so hard to assure successful ISTEP+ testing this past week. We have one week down, and one week to go to finish this first round of assessment. Shortly afterward, IREAD-3 testing will begin for third grade only. Best of luck to Third Grade! Let's have everyone pass this first time through, and we won't have to retest this summer! Which reminds me, if you have not expressed your interest to your principal about teaching summer school, please do so. I have to finish the state application for reimbursement soon.

Yours for another successful week with children!

WD

