

Dear Staff,

Did you remember to change your clocks ahead an hour Saturday night? Though it takes a little getting used to, I have to admit I like the extra evening hour of daylight. And besides, the days are getting longer day by day, and even the early birds among us will have plenty of sunshine soon to start the day.

I've been meaning to send Mr. Snodgrass a tip of the Tiger's tail for stocking Muscle Milk in the cafeteria vending machine



for students at the Jr./Sr. high. I thought about it when I met with the lunch staff there last week

and saw the vending machine with this new offering. Cash flow for cafeterias is still an issue we are addressing in several ways, and Mr. Snodgrass came up with a great idea to

help at least in part. It's a win for Food Services, and it's a win for his athletes. Thanks! Remember, you can help by encouraging students to eat in the lunchroom every day. And remember, Ms. Maddy and her staff would be glad to provide "Grab-N-Go" lunches for classes who go on fieldtrips. And while it's fun for kids to pack their lunches on days when classes or whole grade levels travel, doing so puts a big dent in our reimbursement check at the end of the month.



Nettle Creek Family of Schools

Speaking of good ideas, someone reminded us of an idea that surfaced a few years ago. Maybe now is the right time to give it a go. Mr. Drake and the Athletic Department and coaches have done a great job building up the weightlifting equipment in the weight room at HJr./Sr.H. A question was asked if we



could sell memberships to community members to use the equipment on a regular basis.

This idea has merit and could be a source of General Fund revenue. Whenever I drive by the new gyms in Richmond, there are always cars in the parking lots. And both of these gyms just opened. I wonder how many people are driving there from western Wayne County? Of course, we wouldn't dream of getting ahead of the Athletic Department with this idea, but if you are interested in working with me to provide some leadership to look at it, please let me know.

Who knows? At some point, when we see how this goes, maybe we could add the pool into the mix!

We've had a couple more students choose to do the right thing and turn in money they found at school. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Sherrow and her students for helping reunite 'the Georges' and their rightful owner. Everyone wants to be a Tiger Champ at HES!



Anyone who has ever supervised a program that involves state or federal funds has seen the fine print on the applications that indicates that "related programs and documents could be reviewed at any time for guideline compliance." While we follow all guidelines scrupulously so that if the Title Police or The ISTEP+ Police ever come knocking (and we know it rarely actually happens) we don't want their visit to be any longer than necessary. As the fine print cautioned, the Title folks did a spot-check of our Title 1, Title 2 and Title 3 programs and budgets and left giving NCSC a thumbs up! We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Swain for her impeccable attention to detail. Hers is not an easy task because the rest

of us are constantly looking for “different” ways to stretch Title money to provide relief to the General Fund. She has kept us all in between the lines by saying no when she has to, and we all have benefited by avoiding hefty fines or the loss of future funding.

Ms. Hokey sends tips of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Swain and Ms. Bryant for working together to help K-2 teachers map out High Ability services for the remainder of the school year. HES worked with Dr. Vicki DeMao, an HA specialist, to raise the awareness of all teachers to the special needs of these students. This sequence is a pattern that I see at both buildings that is especially apparent now with Condensed Days: Learn, Plan and Implement. Assessing the results brought about by change and using what you discover to learn some more is that upward spiral that ultimately leads to greater student success! Hang in there! What you are doing takes patience. You're doing the right things! The results for students are coming!

The Jr./Sr. high school is on the same road to success. This past week Ms. Schaeffer and Mr. Cadle were knee-deep in school improvement planning with their committee which includes parents and community members. This team will use Condensed Days coming up to gather staff input on the school's 2017-2018 plan. The group is looking at goal setting, analyzing “student achievement data for trends that are positive and those worthy of concern”, and collaborating with peers to set new goals. We wish them the best of luck. You, too, are on the road to success!

A couple of us received a reminder from a parent who is also a business owner in New Castle to make it a priority to Buy Local. To be honest, this is just like students eating in our own cafeteria. These folks work hard at their businesses and deserve our support. The situation that brought this up was that a NCSC group asked him to buy clothing for students. While he was glad to lend a hand, he was offended that his money would buy clothing from a source far away. He had nothing to gain because his business isn't in the clothing business, but he understands that when local supports local, the benefits ripple throughout the community. Please support local businesses. Our community is very generous in their support of our students and our schools. Thanks!

Finally this week, I'd like to send a tip of the Tiger's tail to the following Nettle Creek staff members who went above and beyond the call of duty to express our corporation's thanks to our community who



can take pride in the achievements that schools here have made recently and that they support. Ms. Overfield, Ms. Combs, Mr. Sloniker, Mr. Cadle, Mr. Childs, Mr. Dawson, Ms. Van Meter, Mr. Williamson, Mr. Snodgrass, their students and Ms. Templin. On Thursday evening, NCSC teamed up with the Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce and

hosted an informational open house where students presented descriptions of their activities in Art, BPA, NHS/Peer Helpers, band, the weight room, the New Castle Career Center and the Beef Farm. We hosted business persons who in some cases had never been to NCSC before. Several compliments were heard that evening. Here is one from a note we received (and I omit the author's name because I didn't ask her permission to attribute this to her.)

NCSC DIRECTION FOR 2016-2017



"Your team rolled out the red carpet of hospitality for us, and we are thrilled to have been a small part of the amazing success of your school corporation. The students were incredibly professional and enthusiastic about the educational opportunities they have there. My husband and I had a conversation over dinner afterward that if our girls were still in school, we would certainly consider moving to Hagerstown specifically to have them in your school system."

The second testimonial came from Garry Kleer, President/CEO of First Bank Richmond, NA. He sent:

"Great event last evening. You and the staff have done an impressive job. The excitement shows from the top down. If the educators are excited, the students also will be. You also did a super job as the bus driver. I may be able to find you some extra jobs in your down time. Thank you for the job that you are doing with the kids."

I invite you to join me in taking pride in these great schools and the students we have!

Yours for another successful week with children!

WD

