

Dear Staff,

What a beautiful Spring! Infrequent rain and cool temperatures might not be everyone's preference for Spring weather, but weather such as we've had has gotten children out on the playground at recess, allowed those preparing for the Mini Marathon and those competing in Spring sports good training weather, and produced about the most gorgeous baseball diamond on Cory Field ever.



Another one of the advantages of living in one of the small towns of Nettle Creek is that the flowering trees throughout the area are

mature and real show-stoppers! You might recognize the trees pictured here if you travel between NCSC school buildings much.

It takes fifty+ years for trees to develop this amount of character. Speaking of trees, has anyone checked on the pecan trees Mr. Hillman and his crew planted last year on the "Back Forty"? If they survived the winter, they will undoubtedly be one of the few if not the only pecan trees growing anywhere around. And fifty years from now, someone might be lucky enough to actually harvest locally-grown pecans!



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There is a lot going on at NCSC! While I mention six or seven things each week, I know I miss many, many more great things going on in classrooms and around the corporation continuously. Let's start by sending tips of the tail to Ms. Arnold and Ms. Muller for the time and energy they are investing to get their team ready to run the Mini-Marathon near the beginning of May. It's a common sight now to see the team running around town in preparation for the big day. And just like the swallows returning to Capistrano, every year both teachers assure me that I, too, can participate. Best of luck to students, parents and staff who are putting in the miles to be prepared!



As one of the youngsters who participated told me, "I think every girl in the elementary school is here with her dad." Such was the comment from one of the hundreds of girls and their fathers who participated in the Daddy/Daughter dance on Saturday night. Ms. Thompson and Ms VanMeter deserve tips of the Tiger's tail for putting together this fundraiser that was undoubtedly a memorable time for dads and daughters. They had the auxiliary gym decorated for the occasion, and everyone was having a great time. Ms. Albert contributed her talent with a camera and took photos of each of the youngsters with their dad.

Thanks so much for taking photographs! Your work will be appreciated by families more and more as the years sail by!

Earlier on Saturday, Nettle Creek staff and families joined with families from Western Wayne to face off against the Harlem Wizzards, a travelling exhibition basketball team. This event was a joint effort between the Hagerstown Elementary



School PTO and the PTO from Western Wayne Elementary. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Ullery and her PTO Board for bringing such a fun event to the area. Of course, there has to be a local team for the Wizards to play, and that role was admirably filled by WW and NCSC teachers and staff. We can only hope that each of the NCSC warriors will be at school on time on Monday morning after Saturday's action. Thank you, staff, for supporting HES PTO in this way. We all recognize that the PTO contributes so much to HES all through the year!

Since we're recognizing Ms. Ullery for her good work as the PTO President, It's fitting that we also recognize Ms. Ullery for what she brought to Intermediate students on Friday in her role as the HES CIS coordinator. Sixth-grade classrooms each spent about an hour in the LGI room that was staffed by perhaps 30 community volunteers who represented different facets of life that we would all recognize. One table represented Education. Other tables represented things such as Insurance, Housing, Transportation, Banking, etc. Students came to the room prepared with the career of their choice along with their annual salary. The students' task was to visit each table, make decisions, and hope to heaven they had money left after they got all around the room. Students were allowed to trade in expensive cars and sell their fancy houses if they ran out of money early. Ms. Ullery deserves a tip of the Tiger's tail and more for rounding up all of those adult volunteers and keeping the Reality Store experience for students alive and well!



It is customary to send Tips of the Tiger's tail for those who go above and beyond for students. Let's take a moment to send a tip of the Tiger's tail to someone who just had one heck of a time this week in the course of her regular job! This special tip of the Tiger's tail goes to Ms. Cash for having one of those weeks! Over the course of last week, Ms. Cash had four emergency occurrences that would be more than any of the rest of us could handle. From significant seizures by students and school volunteers, a student falling down stairs and getting hurt and a student experiencing an asthma attack that required additional assistance, Ms. Cash has had one heck of a week! The Tiger puts his arm around you, Ms. Cash, and promises that this coming week is going to be better!

During last Friday's Condensed Day HES teachers worked in cross-grade-level teams on planning. Five or six teams spread out across the building focusing on Science, technology, high ability, and etc. All of the topics were identified beforehand and each group had a goal to accomplish during their time together. It's easy to notice as I go between buildings that these professional development times are used intensively toward school improvement. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to everyone for keeping the expectations for this time rigorous! Results of your commitment to self-discipline and to quality are showing!



Yours for another successful week with children!

WD

