

Dear Staff,

We have had some awesome summer weather lately! The fruits and vegetables that are available at roadside stands and coming ripe in Nettle Creek area gardens have been real show stoppers. Though I'm not a big fan of vegetables in general, I have found that I enjoy growing a few things in my patch in the Hagerstown Community Garden. Most of my produce becomes giveaways which brings a different type of reward. The beauty pictured here came from my garden. I've learned there are two types of tomatoes – early; those that ripen in an advertised 60 days or the later



beefsteak tomatoes, like this one, that took 80+ days to turn red. To my way of thinking the taste of the later is the epitome of a great, homegrown



tomato. Life is like a tomato patch. Putting in a quick-producing tomato gets you tomatoes more quickly, but there is value in also tending varieties that take a bit more of an investment and extra patience so that you can enjoy the very best life has to offer. P.S. if you'd like a tomato with lunch, drop me a line, and I'll bring you one! Not this one though. It was delicious!

Our perfect weather also made it a great weekend for Nettle Creek families to enjoy Jubilee Days. I think the Lions Club gets a lot of credit for putting on this annual extravaganza though I know many,



many people help to make it great. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Hokey and her teachers for walking in Saturday's parade. The crowd gave a big cheer when the teachers were introduced at the grandstand in front of the library. I know we recognize the special place teachers have in the community's heart, and I also know that spot is hard-earned! We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Hendrickson for FFA who participated and Mr. Sloniker for organizing the marching band to participate as well. So many bystanders lining the parade route fondly recall their

days as a member of the Golden Tiger Marching Band!

Monday is the big day for all of us who enjoy keeping an eye on the sky for things like meteor showers and eclipses. Because there is an element of risk this time around, it makes sense for us to remind students (and ourselves) that we should not be looking at the sun during the eclipse. The arrival of the eclipse is an incomparable teachable moment. We are doing students a service when we instill in them a sense of wonder about the natural world balanced with the knowledge of how to appreciate this wonder safely. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Arnold for preparing her sixth-grade students to provide eclipse minilessons to all grade levels at HES. I had the privilege to sit in on one of their lessons for a Kindergarten class. All of the adults in the room were quite amazed at the amount of information the Kindergarten students already knew about eclipses! It reminded me of a tennis match. Ms. Arnold would serve up a question, and at least one K student would shoot back the correct answer after every

serve! Hold tight Jr./Sr. high, they're coming your way in eight years. Mark my words! When they arrive you are going to think back, "This must be that group!" And I'm just now figuring the math ...drum roll, please... They are going to be in Grade Seven when the next eclipse arrives, and they are

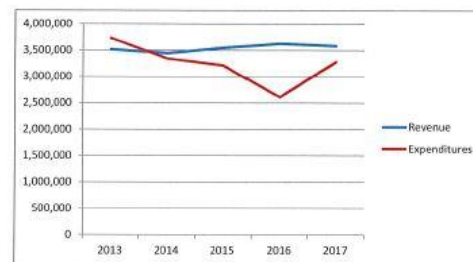


going to show you that they know a whole lot more than just about eclipses! Ms. Arnold and Ms. Muller will also be travelling to the Path of Totality in Kentucky and skyping back to students about their experience and answering eclipse questions. Though I don't know the details of how they are making this happen, I think Mr. Munchel deserves a tip of the Tiger's tail, too, because when using technology involves

more than logging in, chances are pretty good that he has done some preparation work to help it happen. Thanks to everyone who has changed routines on Monday to assure student safety during the actual eclipse. Our goal is for everyone to end the day reflecting, "Hey, that was pretty cool!" and looking forward to the next eclipse coming our way in 2024!

June 30th is like Christmas for school business managers every year! It is the one day in the year while we are preparing budgets when all of our bills are paid and all of our revenue from state and local sources is in the bank. With no outstanding debts and all income accounted for, it is a chance for us to see if NCSC stands at a point where revenue is greater than expenditures – which is where we must be if we are financially healthy. This chart shows cash balances for this year and the previous four June 30ths. I call the distance between the revenue line and the expenses line our 'capacity'. The Board and I keep track of this all through the year and last year determined that we had more capacity than we needed and so, approved increased expenditures in terms of increased salaries for all employees, the Board picked up last year's insurance increase, increased pay for co-curricular activities, reestablished a corporation librarian and hired an instructional coach. The cost of doing business goes up continuously(as you well know when you pay the bills at home), so we can anticipate that this will reduce capacity all along and which is why I always have to allow for a little cushion between expenses and revenue as I build the budget. Folks have already been contacting me with requests for additional appropriations. I think it is only fair that we all are looking at the numbers, recognize the trend, and are aware that we are in a very different place financially than we were a year ago. And all the while, the Board did some pretty wonderful things for all of us. Thankfully, we are still in a different place than we were in 2013! We are all going to need to work together to assure that Nettle Creek School Corporation remains a sound financial entity for our children and our community this year and every year into the future.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Revenue	3,515,271	3,442,438	3,544,901	3,624,556	3,581,424
Expenditures	3,730,203	3,339,009	3,205,161	2,604,949	3,274,286



Yours for another successful week with children!

WD

