

Dear Staff,

I suppose everyone gets to a point when they just need a break! This past week had one of those times for me. When I feel the need to get away from my desk I'll tour either of the schools (or both if I really need a break) just to remind myself that it is in the buildings where the action is. Nine out of ten times I end up grabbing a rag and helping clean cafeteria tables



because there is never too much help in the cafeteria at lunch time. This past week, I stopped in the Jr./Sr. high lunchroom to see if I could lend a hand, and they mentioned Ms. Dale was absent, and maybe Ms. Black could use another set of



Nettle Creek Family of Schools

hands. Ms. Black graciously accepted my offer and ran me through the procedures of preparing lunch trays for the dishwasher in the dish room. It was an honor to wear that Chartwells apron as one of the team, and I am sending a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Black for her easy-going nature and sense of humor and to all of the ladies in the Jr./Sr. high cafeteria for their patience. As usual, the ladies taught me a few things: 1)they have their food service system down to a science, 2)they are 100% dedicated to serving students in their own special way, and 3) you'd better be a Buckeye fan especially after a win over Michigan. Thank you, Ladies! You are one in a million!

Let's continue our celebration at the Jr./Sr. high school. I received the following message from Mr. Gray who sent a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Isaacs for her work there. "Just want to share some good news. In addition to the great work she has done rehabbing our libraries, Ms. Isaacs has been teaching mini-lessons on select Friday's in our English classes. These lessons center on library use, internet use, research, and other cogent topics. Wow, is she good! Not only are the lessons exceptionally well-planned, well-executed, and contain great information for our students, but I have also learned a number of things and have been able to observe a model of first-rate pedagogy. We are fortunate to have Ms. Isaacs in her current position." Thank you, Ms. Isaacs for your good work, and Mr. Gray, you deserve a tip of the Tiger's tail, too, for the value you place on a job well done and sharing the news with the rest of us. Thanks to you both!



Let's celebrate two additional staff members who have been working toward individual growth goals for quite some time. First, we send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Locke who has finished the requirements and earned her administrator license. She has spent much time and effort on this project over a

number of years with her colleagues' and her family's support. Ms. Locke has passed her final exams with flying colors, and we are quite proud of her accomplishment!



Another staff member who is GROWING @ THE CREEK and has finished her coursework and will be taking her final exam soon is Ms. Bryant. She has been pursuing her High Ability license which entails quite a bit of study and hard work. Being our High Ability teacher gives her a great venue to implement in her classroom the things she is learning and to continue to update our High Ability program based on the latest research to better meet our HA students' needs.

We have three more Tigers who have finished licensing or are just about to, but I'll wait until I get a great photo of them together to share their good news! I might take just a moment to encourage any certified staff who has begun pursuing a Master Degree to give it serious consideration. I am sure that Ms. Locke and Ms. Bryant would testify that committing to that level of coursework brings benefits to you beyond what you might imagine. And personally, I would encourage those who have obtained their Masters to give serious thought to going on. Admittedly, committing to a program is a big deal, but what you will learn will be well worth it! If you have the slightest notion of pursuing further schooling, advanced training or an advance degree, please let me know. I'd like to help!



We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to everyone at HES who participated in the canned food drive there. Slinky Snake grew to an impressive length this year because of the generosity of staff and students. The NHS chapter at the Jr./Sr. high school is conducting their annual canned food drive during the week of December 11-15. Canned food can be dropped off at Ms. Van Meter's room. NHS will also be collecting food at the boys and girls basketball games on December 15.

Let's close with an acknowledgement of the value of all of our community members who volunteer their time and talent for the benefit of our students in our schools. Ms. Childs, who has recently retired, is the latest person to join these ranks, and we send a tip of the Tiger's tail to her for lending a hand. Your help is much appreciated!



Yours for another successful week with children!

WD

