

Dear Staff,

Well, the snow's gone... There are certain advantages to fifty degree days! While I'll have to keep an eye on morning visibility due to fog, I much prefer temperatures above freezing, and if it means the kids can get outdoors for recess for a midday break, so much the better!



We send the first tip of the Tiger's tail this week to the HES PTO for bringing in an educational assembly from the COSI Center in Columbus, Ohio for all students. Children learned about the human body in small,

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activity-oriented groups. Ms. Ullery and her team did a great job acquiring parent/community volunteers to run the learning stations distributed around the HES gym. The large-group activity I observed had children discovering that



other things, see broken bones via x rays and investigate the digestive system with tubes of various sizes. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Mr. Romack for moving his PE class to the LGI Room for two days. His lessons focused on cup stacking which develops cooperation, ambidexterity and hand-eye

coordination. Thanks for your flexibility, Mr. Romack!

The elective class teachers at the Jr./Sr. high spent time during Tiger Time this past week explaining their programs to students who will be picking elective classes to round out their schedules. Elective courses need sufficient student enrollment



in order to be held. It has been a while since teachers have had the opportunity to describe the various courses they can offer directly to students so that students know better what courses match their interests. As a "fly on the wall", I always find it



inspiring when I hear teachers talk about their subject matter. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to the elective teachers. Their enthusiasm is contagious!

We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Mr. Jones and Mr. Ritter and their staffs for their wins over Blue River Valley on Friday night. The final score for the Varsity game was 63 to 58. This win has been a long time coming for the Tigers against Blue River, so it makes victory that much more sweet. The Varsity team is 8-5 on the season.



Ms. Lear and Ms. Doerstler were celebrated as Literacy Facilitators by Ms. Frazur at a community event at the Hagerstown Library recently. Their students participated in a library activity that concluded with several NCSC students' writings being included in the latest publication of Hagerstown Bound – a collection of essays and poems by area authors.

I'm accustomed to seeing Mr. Meek at the head of the class in the room at the end of the hall upstairs at HJr./Sr.H. It caught my attention when Mr. Cottle, a preservice teacher working with Mr. Meek this year, was in Mr. Meek's place instead. I thought it would be the perfect opportunity for me to see how the new generation of social studies teachers are motivating students to learn the lessons history can teach. It was the beginning of the new semester, and Mr. Cottle was "setting the stage" and helping students connect what they will learn in second semester with him with what they had learned in first semester with Mr. Meek. Mr. Cottle explained that lessons would continue along the timeline they were familiar with focusing this semester on the 50s, 60s, 70s and on up to 2010. In my opinion, I remember the 60s and 70s as pivotal years that have shaped national events in big ways since that time. Arranging social studies lessons chronologically makes sense, and I thought Mr. Cottle was off to a great start for the semester until he told the students, "You've lived what we'll cover OR YOUR GRANDPARENTS HAVE." That stung. I didn't leave his classroom as quietly as I probably should have, and I went and sulked in a math class where they were talking about Pythagorus. I went to high school with him... Regardless, Mr. Cottle, we're glad you chose HJr./Sr.H as the place to finish your training!



Ms. Olinger has advertized two contests in the HJr./Sr.H daily announcements being sponsored by the Hagerstown Optimist Club. I thought I'd mention them here so that HES staff would know about these opportunities as well. This year's topic for the Optimist essay contest is, "Can Society Function Without Respect?". A panel of judges will select three winners from the local level who will advance to the regional level. Local winners will receive medallions and cash prizes. The competition is open to school-age students K-12. The essay must be between 700 to 800 words in length. Entries are due to Ms. Kim Blair by March 2nd. You can contact Ms. Blair at 765.541.9319 to register and with questions. Teachers are encouraged to enter their students and employees are welcome to enter their own children as well! The Optimists are also sponsoring an oratorical contest which allows students who enjoy speaking in front of a group to shine. The topic is, "Where Are My Roots Of Optimism?" The deadline to hand in a copy of speeches is February 15th. Presentations will be made on February 22nd at Lumpy's North at the Optimist meeting at 7:00P.M. Optimist member, Mr. Max Soliday, is available for more information and to register for this opportunity. He can be reached at 765.960.5857. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to the Optimists for making these opportunities available to our students! Go get 'em, Tigers!

Yours for another successful week with children!

WD

