

Dear Staff,

My Gosh! It's an honest-to-goodness sunny day! If you add the warmish temperature, the robin outside my office window and some early flowering shrubs trying to make a go of it, I would say spring is on its way! I try to live one day at a time, but when I noticed the bulbs I planted last Fall up and looking promising, it's all I can do not to wish it was March 25<sup>th</sup> rather than February 25<sup>th</sup>!

Friday, right before dismissal, I heard Mr. Childs reminding seventh, eighth and tenth grade students that ISTEP+ starts on Monday and telling them what they need to do to be test-ready. ISTEP+ starts on Tuesday for grades three through six at HES. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Swain and Ms. Kaiser for getting all of the assessment materials ready so that our kids can show us what they know. We have received a second notice that the IDOE will be conducting unannounced onsite monitoring to be sure schools are conducting ISTEP+ and IREAD-3 according to required protocols. If you are involved with test administration and have any questions about your role or the required procedures, please notify Ms. Swain. The rest of us can support the cause by keeping building climates calm and conducive for good testing. We appreciate that many folks have been drafted into being test monitors so that we can make the accommodations necessary to balance the playing field for all students to do well. Thank you!



Student academic performance is important at Nettle Creek. We are getting in the groove by watching all sorts of indicators that show we are on the right track to assure each student's success. One such indicator that has nothing to do with test results is



the success the Hagerstown Elementary Math Bowl Team has earned throughout their season.

Purdue hosts a series of these competitions, and Nettle Creek came out on top and took First

Place yet again and this time at their final competition of the year. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Keesling, Ms. Chew and Ms. Claywell for preparing our students effectively. You've figured out the winning combination that is evident in your students' success!



Administrators are doing their homework, too, to support increasing student achievement at Nettle Creek within their role as building leaders. Last week, to build our knowledge base, Ms. Hokey and Ms. Morgan, Mr. Childs and Mr. Dawson, Ms. Swain and I travelled to Brownsburg Community School Corporation to learn about their program. Brownsburg is reliably ranked

among the top five public school corporations in Indiana. As it turns out, their superintendent, Dr. Snapp, was an assistant principal at Northeastern here in Wayne County at one time and is friends with Mr. Childs. Small world! I would say it is safe to say that our group learned quite a bit from the experience. After the first ISTEP+ window closes, administrators will extend an invitation to teachers and share about our trip.

Toward the end of this week Nettle Creek will once again host the Hagerstown 2A Basketball Sectional. The Tiger's first game is on Friday night. Mr. Keesling deserves a tip of the Tiger's tail for coordinating this event. Mr. Hillman and his crew deserve a tip of the Tiger's tail for having the building and the grounds prepared to host the hundreds of visitors who will come through our doors. Of course, none of this would be possible without the work all season long by Mr. Jones and his staff and the student athletes who will represent the Purple & Gold! Best of Luck!

I received a great phone call this week that I thought I'd share with you. This call was from Mr. Gollhofer, student Owen Gollhofer's father. We celebrate several senior students who have



recently signed to play sports at colleges and universities next year. These college offers include lucrative scholarships as a part of the package. Mr. Gollhofer called to send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Mr. Snodgrass who he shared routinely goes above and beyond the call of duty to



showcase his athletes' accomplishments that in turn catch the eye of college recruiters and result in scholarship offers. It is common knowledge that recruiters typically focus on athletes from larger schools. Mr. Snodgrass does what is necessary to attract attention to his players, and Owen and others' good fortune is the result of Mr. Snodgrass's determination which in this case, secured Owen an offer from Marian University which he has accepted. Thank you, Mr. Snodgrass! The Gollhofer Family is grateful, and there are many other parents who appreciate the doors you have helped open for their children as well.

We also received the following email from a parent, Mr. Mathews, who sends a tip of the Tiger's tail to his son, Liam's math teacher, Ms. Keesling. He says in part, "I just wanted to let you know that I've been very impressed with Mrs. Paula Keesling's assistance recently. Liam has been struggling with math as pertaining to the iReady software/web-based application. From discussions with her... she has been great! Very receptive, very responsive, and I wanted to let you know how much Amanda and I appreciate that." Nice job, Ms. Keesling! And thanks to all employees who regularly go above and beyond the call of duty for our students. You are each appreciated!



Yours for another successful week with children!

WD

