

Dear Staff,

At this time of year the opening paragraph to this week's letter just has to congratulate all of the fall sports coaches, their staffs and their athletes! It was a great weekend to do a little travelling to cheer on Tigers across the state. We send tips of the Tiger's tail to the fans, too, who showed their Tiger Pride on Friday and Saturday. Even though Friday night was cold and wet, Mr. Snodgrass had his football team psyched and prepared. They brought home a win at Cory Field in their first sectional game. The next stop for them is semi-finals this Friday at Edinburgh. Google says it's about an hour and twenty-two minute drive from here. I'm predicting it will be well worth the trip for the team and the fans. Coach Dale's volleyball team made us proud in their Regional matches on Saturday. The team came out on top in the morning match and made a valiant effort in the second game of the day. With their win/loss record this season and adding the fact that they are a young team, this group will be even more fun to watch in the coming years. Mr. Gray deserves a tip of the Tiger's tail, too, for two of his runners who ran in semi-state competition this weekend. Students Eli Halcomb and Logan Tuttle represented Hagerstown well. Coach Zach White and his tennis team brought a rare distinction to NCSC when the tennis team earned the title 2018 Academic All-State. This honor is based on the academic and athletic accomplishments of the seven players who appeared in the sectional tournament. Only 38 total teams across the state received this distinction, and we are very proud that the Tiger Tennis Team was one of them. Nice job, Mr. White! This tip is for you! Finally, I'd like to send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Schaeffer, Mr. Tyner and Mr. Harney for their dedication to our teams. All three individuals put a lot of miles on their cars this weekend. Mr. Tyner and Ms. Schaeffer are the grease in the wheels being available if other pairs of hands are needed during an event, and Mr. Harney is tops at spreading the good news at NCSC!



"I think he keeps keys in his top desk drawer." So were the words of wisdom shared with me by Ms. Hokey Friday night a week ago at about 11:00P.M. Every once in a while I get an after-hours call from 911 looking for someone to come in to school to help with some sort of situation. It makes perfect sense for them to contact me when Mr. Hillman isn't available since



I live the closest to school and usually have the key that is needed. The issue this time was two outside doors that were left unlocked at HES. When I pulled into school, I found out that the problem was crash bars that had been turned down and that needed an allen key to release them. Ms. Hokey was in the loop that night, too, and she suggested that I check Mr. Shepherd's desk drawer for one. I have to admit, I laughed out loud when I opened the

drawer in his office. There were about a million keys in it, and, sure enough, there was a key ring with the key I needed. I have to give Officer Loudy from HPD a tip of the Tiger's tail for finding those doors. One of them was in the courtyard which means he had to do a lot of walking and checking to find it! Beyond this being a 'cute' story, this is a reminder to everyone that we must be vigilant that we do not prop doors or leave outside doors unlocked. We have hundreds of thousands of dollars of equipment that could disappear, and vandalism could happen anywhere and at any time. We are asking everyone to develop the habit of pulling on exterior doors when you leave day or night to be sure they are locked. It only takes a second and could mean all the difference. We promise parents that their children are safe in our buildings. And I promise your families that you are safe. If anything should ever happen, and an intruder gained access to the building through an unlocked or propped door, it would be impossible to explain. And lest we think the Jr./Sr. high is exempt from unlocked doors, I received another call from Officer Loudy at 1:00A.M. that same night telling me that he found two propped doors at the Jr./Sr. high. Please lend a hand and wiggle the door when you leave the buildings to be sure it's locked, and we'll send you a wiggle of the Tiger's tail for your extra effort to maintain school safety!

I stopped in at Ms. Doerstler's room this past week to hear Chief Folkner make one of his Anti-Bullying presentations for students and arrived a little early. Everyone knows that there can be a period of time between when the kids are assembled and when a guest speaker arrives, and it was gratifying to see that Ms. Doerstler didn't miss a beat and filled that transition time with reading aloud from a book she has been reading to her class. I'll admit that I got drawn into the story about Smokey, the Yorkshire terrier, who is one of the dogs from WWII featured in Paws of Courage. During instructional time, every minute counts! Ms. Doerstler didn't get to that part, but I surmise Smokey earned a Silver Service Cross for one reason or another. Ms. Doerstler earns a tip of the Tiger's tail for her intensive use of instructional time!



Finally, I would like to invite you to Wednesday's Board meeting. This will be the first chance principals and I will have to share our most recent ISTEP+ scores. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to classroom teachers for their excellent instruction that resulted in our children meeting or exceeding state averages in the percent of students who passed the reading test, the math test and in passing both. In fact, this is the best we've ever done and rank First corporation-wide in Wayne County. Every employee supports teachers and students in their work and can look with pride at our students' success!

Yours for another successful week with children!

WD

