

Dear Staff,

Phew! Good weekend to get the leaves raked. I knew perfectly well what moving to a wooded lot just outside of town would bring when Fall rolls around. What I didn't realize then that I know now is that maples lose their leaves first. And oaks follow. Since maple leaves are



Nettle Creek Family of Schools

fairly soft, after they're wet, they stick together. This weekend was about the only window we've had that those maple leaves were dry



enough to rake (actually blow). The oak leaves are still on the trees and won't fall for a while until after some freezes. They will be a lot easier to remove because they are stiff, dry quickly, and don't stick together like maples do. Welcome to Autumn in the Nettle Creek Valley! We're right between the maple leaf fall and the oak leaf fall! If you had leaves to rake, I hope you were able to tackle them this weekend!

Speaking of tackling, we send a sincere tip of the Tiger's tail to Mr. Snodgrass and his football staff and players for a great game in the Sectional Championship on Friday night. What an exciting season! His program showed its true strength by once again advancing through to the sectional championship game. When the clock ran out on Friday, we weren't on top, but he and his staff can point to a team that played with a lot of heart throughout the night and throughout the season!



We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Morgan and Ms. Schaeffer, our corporation safety officers. We learned this week that our State safety auditor will be coming to Nettle Creek to check out our school safety plans. Her visit is a result of a new law passed this summer that mandates that all school corporation school safety plans be reviewed including a site visit. When we heard this was a possibility, the administrative team reviewed our plans to assure that they meet the state rubric. As it's turned out, NCSC is in the first round of check-ups. (Just lucky, I guess.) From our early review and the constant vigilance of the Safety Committees at both buildings, we're fairly certain ours meet and exceed the guidelines. We'll let you know for sure after the review.



Ms. Kaiser, school counselor at HES, deserves a tip of the Tiger's tail for her initiative and follow-through. Because the situation involves a Child Protective Services situation over multiple school corporations including ours, this commendation is going to lack a lot of detail, but suffice it to say that Ms. Kaiser found a student in a situation that benefited from her intervention. While others might have determined that our responsibility for school support had ended,



Ms. Kaiser took the initiative and went above and beyond the call of duty to assure that this student was safe through a transition. Thank you, Ms. Kaiser, for putting this child's needs first.

Let's take a moment to recognize another NCSC employee for "going above and beyond" as well. This time we send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Mr. Ford for taking a moment to help a student. I was at the right place at the right time to see Mr. Ford stop and offer to help a student who was on her last nerve because she couldn't get the lock on her locker to cooperate. We've all been in situations like this and know how we feel when something mechanical won't cooperate. He certainly didn't have to stop and assist because I'm sure Mr. Ford was thinking about his day ahead, but he did. And he got her locker open without a fuss. Thanks, Mr. Ford, for seeing a student in need and making her (and my) day a little bit brighter!



File this next item under "Do You Know?" I was having a conversation recently with a group of teachers from both buildings, and one teacher talked about a medical procedure he had recently. He shared that he became curious when he was talking to the receptionist at a medical office his doctor recommended about the cost of the impending procedure. When he received the



estimate, he was motivated to contact another surgeon's office because the first estimate seemed high and the procedure was minor. To his surprise, he found he could have the same procedure done for substantially less money right here in the county without compromising quality. From the reaction of the other teachers in the group, it was evident that this teacher was the only one of us who ever shopped around for medical treatment, and this teacher reports saving quite a bit of money for his effort. We can all learn a lesson here whether we



take the school insurance or not. What's even better, NCSC employees who are on our medical insurance have a service, VitalsSmartShopper, that will not only do the shopping for you, but will also send you a

check directly for part of the difference between a high-cost provider and a provider in the area that charges less. As our teacher found out, there is quite a bit of money to be saved between healthcare providers in Wayne and Henry Counties. The VSS web address is [www.vitalssmartshopper.com](http://www.vitalssmartshopper.com). Though we wish everyone the best of health, some of the paybacks are as follows:

Bunionectomy - \$250

Carpal Tunnel - \$150

Colonoscopy - \$200

CT Scan - \$150

ENT - \$250

Mammogram - \$50

MRI - \$150

Rotator Cuff Repair - \$250

Ultrasound - \$50

And more

To register call the SmartShopper Personal Assistant Team at 1.866.285.7078 or visit the website and follow the prompts. When your doctor recommends a medical test or service procedure, call the Personal Assistant Team or visit VSS online to search for a cost-effective location in your area. Have your procedure at one of the incentivized locations. Four to six weeks after the procedure, VSS mails a check to your home. No forms. No hassles. I just re

Yours for another HEALTHY week with children!

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