

Dear Staff,

Well, Maybe Phil was right after all! With school delays and cancellations taking larger than typical bites out of school days and Spring Break, I was wondering if Punxsutawney Phil was the purveyor of fake news this year when he predicted an early Spring. A look around the neighborhood today though restored my faith in the groundhog when I spotted some witch hazel in full bloom. It's a bit of a glaring shade of yellow, but any signs of Spring this early had better stand up and shout to be noticed. I think I read somewhere that there are twenty-eight days until Spring!



Nettle Creek Family of Schools

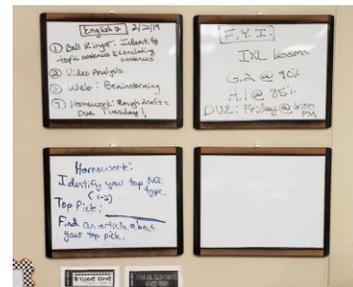
It's fun to visit both schools and catch glimpses of what is going on inside classrooms. When the teacher is talking about compound interest, it's pretty easy to know what's going on. Other indicators are a little less certain. While hiking through HES, I came across



this door with student work posted. Topics ranged from what I'm guessing is the teacher's contribution that refers to dreaming big, being respectful, and always doing your best, etc. to student additions that mention the Boston Massacre, Wanted: slave owners for owning people, Wanted: Pilgrims for escaping England, and the heart-



warming sentiment: The present doesn't matter! It's the person who gave it! The coolest thing about being the superintendent and leaving building-level administration behind is that my Evaluation Hat is replaced with my Curiosity Hat on these school trips. Regardless of what I see, I know we have great teachers, and what they choose for students to do is undoubtedly in students' best interests, and that we have wonderful principals who are minding the farm.



We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Overfield and her student team who are very busy putting together this year's Epitome. I stopped in her classroom last week, and she and the students were hard at work. Beyond editing text and determining layout, year book staff is also working on marketing. It is a year-long project, and the result of their work is one of the few projects that we undertake here that will still be around fulfilling its original purpose generations from now. NCSC has quite a



collection of year books that is a testament to the hard work Epitome students and teachers did over the past one hundred years to capture the essence of school life here.

It was exciting to see a couple tractors arrive on Friday when the Jr./Sr. high school celebrated Drive Your Tractor To School Day. This event was the capstone to National FFA Week at the Jr./Sr. high. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Mr. Olinger for supporting the Ag program and bringing back this school tradition.



The Hagerstown Archery Team is headed to their state meet at the fairgrounds in Indianapolis on March 9th. Only 10% of student archers typically qualify for the state competition! Ms. Hobson and Officer Miller are chaperoning the trip. Go Tigers!

We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to the first-grade teachers who sent home an activity packet for their students to complete during a recent Snow Day. We've received positive feedback from first-grade parents about the teachers' trial packet. The school corporation is doing behind-the-scenes work at both buildings as they develop a K-12 recommendation for eLearning Days for future Board consideration.

Mr. Munchel requests that staff continue to use Work Request Forms when technology breaks down. If you get an error message on your screen, please include the error message on the form so that a solution can be identified and the problem solved as soon as possible. Thank you!

Let's wrap up this week with a short piece that you might find helpful! According to Rick Hanson, Ph.D. founder of the Wellspring Institute for Neuroscience and Contemplative Wisdom, the human brain has a negativity bias. For ancient ancestors this made sense because it was a smart survival strategy. He suggests that it is productive for us to intentionally "take in the good". This habit will help us build the resources within ourselves to become a more calm, confident and capable person. He offers the following suggestions to move in this direction:

- Notice something positive when you're feeling negative.
- Divide experiences into their components – while an experience might be negative, dividing it into components such as thoughts, sensations, emotions, desires and actions and identifying at least one component of a negative experience that is positive will increase the odds that the memory of the event will be stored as a positive. He gives this example: "A woman who considers herself overly passive stands up straight and tells a man what she thinks of him when he cuts in front of her in line at a coffee shop. She then spends ten seconds thinking about her willingness to calmly and confidently stand up to this man (a positive)... rather than focusing on the man's unpleasant behavior (a negative).

Yours for another successful week with children!

WD

