

Dear Staff,



They told us it was going to be a great weekend here weather-wise. And they were right! Of course, the weekend started out in fine fashion as Mr. Snodgrass and his players brought home a decisive win (36-0) over Cambridge City on Friday night with Tiger fans led by the cheerleaders in full support. We send



Mr. Snodgrass and Ms. Stainbrook the first tips of the Tiger's tail this week for a job well done. All of the Fall sports teams are doing a great job and deserve high fives as well!



Every moment counts at Hagerstown Elementary School when it comes to supporting student learning! We spotted one such instance when Ms. Stinson, Ms. Young and their classes arrived to the cafeteria at noontime a few minutes early this past week. Sometimes it's hard for teachers to estimate precisely how long it will take for a class to finish in the restrooms before they eat. If a class arrives to the cafeteria a little early, it is common to see the teacher engaging the students in some sort of educational activity that provides students a fun chance to show what they know as they wait for their lunchtime to arrive. On this particular day, Ms. Stinson and Ms. Young and their students were working on an impromptu language arts activity. I've seen other teachers referring to cards on a ring as they walk their class to the lunchroom having fun quizzing their students in a similar way. High performing schools use instructional time intensely. Please understand that no one at HES is missing recess with this school-wide determination, and in fact, it is common knowledge among the staff that recess and physical activity are very important and support learning, too!



We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Kaiser, the counselor at HES, for bringing "No One Eats Alone Day" to the elementary school again this year. This celebration recognizes that students who feel connected with friends are more likely to feel safe and do well at school. Lunchtime and recess are times when students are learning social skills, and students who might have a delay in this development can find lunchtime and recess to be challenging times. Social skills, like reading skills and math skills, are learned and have to be practiced. We all don't acquire these skills at the same time. Thank you, Ms. Kaiser, for recognizing this and attending to the needs of each of your students in this useful way!



Let's call this paragraph "Crisis Averted"! Have you ever seen those photos online entitled, "Guess What Happens Next?!" You might think it



is an easy guess in this case if you look carefully at the photo at left. If you surmised that the tray ended up on the floor, you (and me, and I was standing right there!) would be wrong. I was one second away from helping this young man hold his tray while he served himself Ranch dressing, but as it turned out, my help was not necessary. I'm not sure where his serving of corn went to unless if this was his second trip through the line, but he served himself his Ranch dressing and returned to his seat with his friends and finished lunch. It's amazing how quickly the

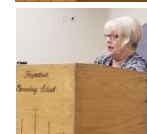


Kindergarteners are learning the procedures in the cafeteria! We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to this youngster and to all of the adults who work in the cafeteria with the patience to teach even the youngest Tigers to gain a measure of independence at lunchtime.

Have you seen the new tennis courts? The old surface had cracked to the point that it was due for resurfacing. Anyone with an asphalt driveway knows that Indiana winters are hard on asphalt, and that it is only a matter of time before the freeze/thaw cycle is going to open up cracks. Mr. Hillman balanced expense and workmanship and got the big job started last week. The purple in the playing area adds a great touch! We wish the tennis teams the best of luck on their new courts.



Let's wrap up today's letter with a tip of the Tiger's tail for Ms. Morgan, Ms. Hollenberg and Ms. Hokey for their great job sharing the HES School Improvement Plan and the school's Five Year Plan at last week's Board meeting. I think Board Member Ms. Houghton summed up most everyone's feeling in the room when she commented that hearing the provisions in these plans makes her proud to be a Tiger! We send Ms. Houghton a tip of the Tiger's tail for expressing her positivity!



Yours for another successful week with children!

WD

