

MoCo Monday Minute

Monday, October 24, 2016

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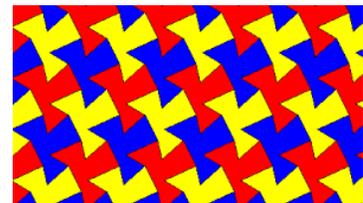


McNabb SAFE School Ambassadors made anti-bullying posters in observance of October being National Bullying Prevention Month.

Quote of the Week – “If a student makes an error, teachers must discern the severity of the error and what caused the incorrect response. Was it a small computational error? Did the student misread the question or not understand what was being asked in class? Or is there a deeply held misconception that will make learning all future related content very difficult without some type of remediation?”

Jonathan Brendefur, Sam Strother, Kelli Rich, and Sarah Appleton in “Assessing Student Understanding: A Framework for Testing and Teaching” in *Teaching Children Mathematics*, October 2016 (Vol. 23, #3, p. 174-181), no e-link available; Brendefur can be reached at jbrendef@boisestate.edu.

What's Going On at MC² – Seventh grade Algebra 1 students are learning how to create equations of lines given a variety of mathematical situations. Students are also analyzing equations of parallel and perpendicular lines to identify slope in order to create new equations of lines. Eighth grade Geometry students are finishing up tessellation projects that allow them to demonstrate their



understanding of transformation by creating artwork which involves rotations, reflections, and translations of a geometric figure.



In English, MC² students have been examining multiple perspectives on America's journey toward freedom. They have been analyzing the rhetorical strategies that writers use to advance their arguments. In a coffee house style discussion (complete with coffee and biscotti), students took on the persona of a historical figure, ranging from Patrick Henry to President Kennedy, to explain their thoughts on freedom. Students have used rhetorical strategies in a classroom debate and are working toward a synthesis essay that will incorporate the analyzed documents.

Teen Writers Day Out – Students in Mr. Baldwin, Mrs. Bromagen, and Mr. Grayson's Creative Writing classes traveled to Morehead State University on October 20th to participate in the Teen Writers Day Out. Writers were encouraged to write on various prompts and share their writings.



Wendy's High School Heisman – We want to congratulate Madison Cline and Jake Harvey as both were selected school winners in the Wendy's High School Heisman. Madison was also selected as a state finalist; one of only 20 state finalists in Kentucky. Wendy's recognizes both Madison and Jake as high character student-athletes who have displayed excellence and integrity both on and off the field. For these two students, taking the easy way out or cutting corners isn't an option and Wendy's is proud to honor their dedication. [Click here](#) to read the news release.

Student Attendance – Mapleton earned the highest one-day attendance with 95.38% on Thursday, but they were edged out by MSE, having the highest attendance for the week with 94.4%.

LAST CHANCE! Health Insurance Enrollment – Today is the final day for enrollment. This is a **MANDATORY** open enrollment period. Everyone must enroll in or waive health insurance coverage. If you do not make an election, you will be defaulted to the standard PPO plan for 2017 at the same level as your 2016 plan (single, couple, parent plus, family).

Benefit Fairs – The two remaining benefit fairs will be:



Mt. Sterling Elementary - October 26th, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

McNabb Middle - October 26th, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Around Town – In addition to a number of school-based activities, there are several community activities that might be of interest/benefit for students and employees (some require a fee):

- Oct. 24 –Trunk or Treat, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Jeffersonville Community Park
- Oct. 27-29 – The Fraternal Order of Police’s *Maze of Terror* will be at the old Clay Tobacco Warehouse across from Tenth Frame Cinema. The event starts at 7:00 p.m. each night. Admission: \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids under 12
- Oct. 29 – Learn the “Thriller” dance (Free Lessons), 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Gateway Regional Arts Center
- Oct. 29 – Zombie Shuffle, 5:30 p.m., Gateway Regional Arts Center
- Oct. 31 – MSMC Parks and Recreation Boo Fest, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Easy Walker Park
- Oct. 31 – Mt. Sterling Trick or Treat, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Dates:

- Oct. 25 – Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., MCHS Cafeteria
- Oct. 26 – Benefit Fair, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., MSE Media Center
- Oct. 26 – Benefit Fair, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m., McNabb Media Center
- Oct. 27 – MCHS Academic Team VS Rowan County, 5:00 p.m.
- Oct. 28 – MCHS Football VS North Laurel, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 29 – JROTC Indian Challenge, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., MCHS Arena
- Nov. 2 – Auditions for Middle School Musical – Wizard of Oz – 7th & 8th Grades
- Nov. 3 – McNabb Academic Team - Written Assessment
- Nov. 4 – Camargo Fall Festival, 5:30-8:00 p.m.
- Nov. 4 – MSE Fall Festival
- Nov. 4 - Deadline to register to take the ACT test given at MCHS on Feb. 11, 2017
- **Nov. 7 – No School – Teacher Planning Day**
- **Nov. 8 – No School – Election Day**
- Nov. 9 – Camargo SBDM Meeting, 3:00 p.m.
- Nov. 9 – McNabb Boys’ Basketball VS Powell County
- Nov. 10 – Veterans Day Program, 8:30 a.m., MSE
- Nov. 10 – Veterans Day Program, 3:00 p.m., MCHS
- Nov. 11 – Veterans Day Program, 1:15 p.m., Camargo
- Nov. 11 – Veterans Day Assembly, 9:00 a.m., Mapleton



The 6th and 7th grade beginning band consisting of 110 members performed their first concert last week.

- Nov. 11 – Veterans Day Celebration, 8:30 a.m., MCIS
- Nov. 12 - ENCORE Theatre Troupe Performance, 7:01 p.m., MCHS Auditorium
- Nov. 14 – Camargo PTO Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- Nov. 15 – MCIS SBDM Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Nov. 15 – Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., MCHS Cafeteria
- Nov. 15 – McNabb Volleyball VS Campbell County
- Nov. 16 - Mapleton PTO Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- Nov. 17 –MSE Family Dinner Night
- Nov. 17 – MCHS SBDM Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Nov. 17 – McNabb Boys’ Basketball VS Bourbon County
- Nov. 21 – McNabb SBDM Meeting, 5:00 p.m.
- Nov. 21 – MCIS PTO Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Nov. 22 – Mapleton Literacy Fair
- **Nov. 23-25 – No School – Thanksgiving Break**
- Nov. 28 – Born Learning Parent Workshop, Dinner at 5:30 p.m., ELC
- Nov. 28 – McNabb Boys’ Basketball VS LCA

Continuous Learning through Professional Literature

Project-Based Learning with Fourth and Fifth Graders

In this article in *Phi Delta Kappan*, Eleanor Smith and Margaret Pastor (special education teacher and principal in a Maryland elementary school) describe the progress of two very different students as their teacher (and her special education colleague) began to implement project-based learning. Mario had just arrived from another school and showed every sign of being a challenge: a non-reader with very low academic scores and limited English, he had a history of behavioral problems and initially presented as scowling and incommunicative. Megan, on the other hand, entered fourth grade with a record of almost perfect grades, completed her work meticulously and on time, and was very well behaved – although shy and not a risk-taker.

The two children’s teacher launched a project-based study of U.S. geography, and Mario picked the state of Texas for his challenge. “He quickly became engaged in posing questions and searching for answers to all manner of inquiry about the state,” say Smith and Pastor, “and the transformation was astonishing. We learned that he could indeed speak and understand English well; he simply had not cared to speak up in school.” That year, Mario began to read for the first time and became a happy, eager student.

Meanwhile, Megan struggled to complete projects because there was often more than one correct answer. She was particularly frustrated when she couldn’t figure out how

to create a “perfect” diorama. Megan had never been asked to use creativity to solve a problem, and it was very challenging for her.

The following year, the teacher looped up to fifth grade with most of her students, and the class launched into a more ambitious project creating an imaginary colony on the planet Mars. During the Fall, students learned about Earth, Mars, and space, teleconferenced with space scientists, hosted guest speakers, watched videos about the solar system, and took field trips, including to the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. In December they started to design their Martian colony, each student and their teachers assigned responsibility for a 6 x 9-foot pod (they could see how their pod fit into the overall colony on a bulletin board scale model). “Teachers realized that much of their teaching was now guided by casual student discourse while they worked on the pods and other displays,” say Smith and Pastor. “Questions and dialogue flowed, and teachers incorporated academic content into these student-led and student-owned conversations.” Students delved into what they would need to survive on Mars and posted their ideas – surveys, supply lists, expense forms, descriptive proposals – on an Idea Board modeled after a picture the class had noticed in the background of a photo from the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Students became experts on Mars and their classroom attracted visitors from around their school.

At one point Megan realized that her perfectly measured and scaled furnishings didn’t fit in her pod, which was a little too small. With prodding from the special education teacher, Megan negotiated with students in neighboring pods and got them to share some of their space. She and Mario ended up taking the lead building a life-size model of one of the living pods. At the end of the year, the entire student body, parents, and many community members viewed the class’s Mars colony.

Over the two years, Mario made tremendous progress (while still testing below grade level in reading and math), and even came up with an original insight that the pods should be launched from the moon since it had lower gravity than Earth (the class learned that NASA engineers had a similar idea). “Megan also had grown in important ways,” say Smith and Pastor. “She no longer approached learning as an exercise in remembering and repeating information but rather as taking on challenges and seeking answers. Her self-confidence, in turn, had made her into a true leader... And for the first time, she shared with us, she loved to learn.”

“Engage Me and I Learn” by Eleanor Smith and Margaret Pastor in *Phi Delta Kappan*, October 2016 (Vol. 98, #2, p. 41-43), www.kappanmagazine.org; the authors can be reached at ekshgs@gmail.com and peggypastor@gmail.com.

Be sure to notify the designated person at your school if you have calendar information that should be added to your website calendar.

Thank you so much for your effort and commitment to children. If you have questions about any of the information contained in this issue of The MoCo Monday Minute, please contact me at matthew.thompson@montgomery.kyschools.us.