

McDowell Mountain Site Council October 2016

Agenda:

- Everyone will receive a report with student enrollment and grade level/special area/clubs & activities updates
- Introductions of all members and welcoming of new members: Bob Sampson, Kim Robertson, Kim Guerrette, and Courtney Moss
- PTO update
- Proposal for adding a fourth kindergarten classroom
- Proposed 2017-2018 FHUSD Calendar
- Overview of the 2016-2017 MMES Effective School Plan and discussion of areas of focus for Site Council this year (please come to the meeting having reviewed the attached Effective School Plan with ideas about how Site Council can support it.)
- Other ?

Principal's Report:

- Tracy Perry joined MMES staff today as our new art teacher. Welcome, Mrs. Perry!
- Successful recent events included the Preschool Ice Cream Social, "Ballet Under the Stars" performance, FHPTO Scholastic Book Fair and its activities, 2nd grade fall music program, coding lessons in technology and PE during parent/teacher conferences week, International Walk to School Day, and parent/teacher conferences.
- The Character Counts focus trait for September-October is Citizenship. Students will be learning about doing their share to improve the school and community, being cooperative, the democratic system of staying informed and voting, obeying laws and rules, respecting authority, and protecting the environment.
- The Character Counts focus trait for November-December is Caring. Students will be learning about being kind, being compassionate and showing they care, expressing gratitude, forgiving others, and helping people in need.

Upcoming Events:

October 17-21: Fire Prevention Week including presentations in PS/K classrooms and assembly for 1st-3rd.

October 19 & 26 and November 2 & 9: 2:20: Student early release for staff professional development

October 20: Banking Day; 1:30: 1st-3rd grade Fire Prevention assembly in multipurpose room

October 20 & 27 and November 3: 6:00-7:00: 1-2-3 Magic Parent University Parts 3 & 4

October 21: Bucketfillers for Life assemblies: 9:00-9:45: Kindergarten & 1st and 10:00-10:45: 2nd & 3rd grade; 5:00 p.m.: Student Council & Falcon Leaders in FHHS Homecoming Parade

October 21 & 28: Falcon Friday: Wear blue!

October 25: Morning Lab starts; Picture retakes

October 26 & November 9: 6:30 p.m.: FHUSD Governing Board meetings

October 27: 8:30-9:15: Fountain Hills Leadership Academy visits MMES

October 28: Preschool Halloween parties

October 31: K-3 Halloween parties; 9:15: Preschool Fall Program in multipurpose room; Afterward: PS3 visits Fountain View Village

November 2: Junior Achievement Day

November 10: 2:00-2:30: Veteran's Day/Caring assembly in multipurpose room

November 11: Veterans' Day: no school

November 14: 3:30-4:30: Site Council meeting

ENROLLMENT: October 2016 - Preschool: 47; Kindergarten: 78; 1st Grade: 70; 2nd Grade: 89; 3rd Grade: 96
TOTAL: 380

PTO: The PTO Book Fair was hugely successful. Each teacher received \$100.00 worth of books, as well as \$5.00 vouchers for kids who couldn't purchase books. PTO has also given each teacher \$200.00/year to spend on supplies/needs for their classrooms. APEX Fun Run totals will be discussed at the next meeting. PTO has ordered T-shirts and they should be arriving soon.

GRADE LEVEL NEWS:

Preschool/SPED Notes:

Preschool: PS-1, PS-2, and PS-3: We all successfully wrapped up parent conferences, and progress reports. As we are all jumping into our fall season, many of our topics surround things related to fall. We will be talking about topics like leaves, pumpkins, Halloween, and the changing of the season.

PS-1 and PS-2 are in full swing with Handwriting Without Tears, and are covering letters, numbers, colors, and shapes with our students. We are also working on mixing colors, & counting objects up to 10.

PS-3 reports that they are continuing with our Zoo Phonics, we will start letter Gg when we return. We are transforming our dramatic play into a pumpkin patch for the fall and studying pumpkins. We will revisit Mat Man and continue with HWT's. We will also be talking about bones and looking at x-rays of real bones. Students will make a skeleton using q tips. We will be reading fall, pumpkin, and skeleton books, both fiction and non-fiction.

All Preschools: Teaching Strategies Gold Fall Deadline is Friday, October 21st

Child Find News: Students for Child Find screenings are becoming full. We are receiving referrals from Fort McDowell and Fountain Hills. Thus far, we have had two successful screenings. There are definitely more to come! Some upcoming preschool events include:

- Preschool Halloween Parties Friday, October 28th
- Preschool Fall Program Monday, October 31st at 9:15am

Specialist/Resource: Things are going good. Nothing to report at this time.

Kindergarten:

Kindergarten classes are working on:

Bridges Mathematics: Continuing with patterns, 5-frames/10-frames, subitizing to 10, writing numbers to 10, counting forward and backward to/from 20, and comparing quantities. We also began comparing sets using the words more and less and are working on understanding number combinations that add up to 5 and 10.

Being a Writer: drawing, writing, and Author's Chair sharing –pieces that tell things they love about themselves with a focus on adding more detail to illustrations and writing the sounds they hear in words.

Orton Gillingham phonemes and graphemes: C, D, G, A, M, L, O, H, T, I, P, U, J, K, and digraph CH.

Sight Words: I, see, a, the, my, like, to, do, we, me, be, he, she, you, go, what, is

Phoneme Segmentation, Phoneme Blending

Science: Apples – We classified apples by observable properties as part of our Physical Science Strand. We also participated in planning and conducting apple investigations (predicting whether apples would float and testing our theories) and recorded data as part of our Inquiry Process Strand. We performed simple measurements using non-standard units of measure to collect data about our apples. Some classes organized and analyzed data about our favorite and least favorite apple foods.

First Grade:

We are beginning Week 8 of our Spelling and Reading curriculum. We are in the middle of Unit 2 for our Bridges math curriculum.

Since we spent the majority of first quarter assessing student levels and teaching routines, we can begin small reading groups and literacy centers.

We talked with parents at conferences about additional skill practices that we are starting both in the classroom and through added homework so as to prepare students for approaching expectations (reading fluency to prep for DIBELS Oral Reading Assessment; reading comprehension and finding text evidence to increase detail recall and prep for AZMERIT testing in 3rd grade).

Halloween parties on Monday, October 31st @ 2:00-3:00pm

Second Grade:

Bridges Math Objectives:

Understanding Place Value to hundreds place using base ten blocks with regrouping.

Estimating, comparing and counting 3 digit numbers

Addition and Subtraction Strategies using a number line and other strategies

Solving Word problems

Identifying the time one hour ago and one hour from now

Numbering a clock face

Addition Facts to 20

Counting and Modeling 2 & 3 digit numbers

Reading Series: This Week's Story-

Mr. Putter and Tabby Fly the Plane-Realistic Fiction – This is a story about a man and his pet cat enjoying their time together flying a plane. The students are focusing on predicting outcomes.

Vocabulary words: Cranes, directions, promise, twitch, worry

Ongoing: Continuing the exploration of nonfiction text using text features

Phonics: ph words

Grammar: Finishing Predicates and learning about nouns and verbs

Third Grade: This week in 3rd Grade

Spelling/Phonics:

Accurately spell words with consonant trigraph tch.

Language: Identify and use action verbs and the verb *be*.

Reading: The Talking Cloth – Students read about a girl named Amber who loves to visit her Aunt Phoebe. During one visit, Aunt Phoebe tells Amber and her father about her Talking Cloth, an adinkra cloth that she bought in Africa. As Phoebe explains the colors and the symbols on the cloth, Amber learns about her connection to her family's heritage.

Vocabulary words: Collector, collection, flourish, royalty, embroidered, symbols, wealth

Math: Multiplication - Students investigate situations designed to elicit key ideas and strategies that build a foundation for a deep understanding of multiplication. Students examine various arrays in a pet store that facilitate the use of repeated addition and skip counting and nudge them toward multiplicative strategies such as doubling.

Science: Earth – Processes that occur on and within Earth cause changes to Earth's crust. Heat and pressure can greatly affect the layers of Earth. Minerals, rocks, and fossils are results of these changes. Sedimentary rocks contain the remnants of fossils from the past

Special Area Teachers:

All Special Area teachers: Music, Art, PE, and Tech students are all working collaboratively on "unplugged" lessons incorporating code into each special area subject to prepare for National Computer Science Week and Hour of Code events in December.

Music: The music classroom just received several new tubano drums and over 100 recorders. After Fall Break, the students will use the drums to engage in beat-making, like they've been experiencing all 1st quarter. The 3rd graders will use the recorders to continue learning how to read music. Third grade will also begin working on their Holiday Program, coming up on December 13th.

PE: The students became walking machines and programmers. Six courses were created in the gym for the programmers to direct the walking machines through. The student programmer had to use North, South, East, West, stop, balance and roll hand motions to direct the walking machines from start to finish. They worked on the arm signals on their way to and from the falcon trail.

Technology: Lesson cycle continues and ends this week. National Computer Science week and Hour of Code are in December, all students will be coding in Tech class for the next lesson cycle.

Art: Welcome Tracy Perry!

Student Council:

We will begin paper recycling next week Tuesday, October 25th from 10:30 to 11:30.

Both the Falcon leaders and student council members will be marching in the homecoming parade on October 21st. Permission slips went out today.

We are in process of securing one of the raised beds for our community garden. This will be a joint venture with the Falcon leaders. The cost of the bed is \$250.

Student Council members will be learning about and presenting flag facts at our upcoming Veterans Day Assemble in November.

Junior Achievement:

Other:

MMES kindergarten teachers and Principal Valerie Dehombreuex are proposing to add a fourth kindergarten classroom as soon as possible to provide a more successful kindergarten student/teacher ratio. Currently each of the three classes has 26 students with a couple more new students to arrive in the next week. Superintendent Patrick Sweeney is aware of our concerns and will support our proposal. Site Council input is desired regarding the following:

- Is the need for all students to have a better learning environment worth the heartache and difficulties that may be experienced in students moving to a new classroom a few weeks into the second quarter of school? What is a new teacher I not hired until later? Would it be worth creating the new class with a long-term substitute until a permanent teacher is hired?
- What are your thoughts on the possible hiring/classroom roster reallocation plan? Are there any suggestions to make it go more smoothly, to better communicate to parents, or anything that we may not be aware of or have thought of?

Also discussed was the possible hiring/classroom roster reallocation plan:

- Position would be posted
- Candidate would be hired and able to get classroom ready
- Roughly 6 students from each class selected after parent letter goes home
- Principal would make adjustments to classroom rosters and help create a balanced learning environment
- Master special and duty schedules revised to accommodate fourth class

Site Council Members: Valerie Dehombreux, Lynn Fink, Julie Boyce, Danielle Fisher, Talia Houseal, Jami Rodriguez, Jill Cooper, Tomeka Wilbourn, Peter Conti, Jr., Connie Barczak, Nita Sayles, Roger Owers & Nicole Perkins and/or Astacia Vagotis, Bob Sampson, Kim Robertson, Kim Guerrette, and Courtney Moss.