Superintendent’s Reflections

Don’t eat the poison to kill the rat. My precious mom said this to me when I was really angry with someone, and my anger was impacting my life and those around me. She made the point that if someone else was unkind, unfair, or just downright mean and I became angry, mean, or cranky, I was allowing the other person to hurt me.

This message came into my head the other day when I was speaking to a student who feels that they have been let down many times in their life. The student stated that from this point forward they would do only what is good for them instead of doing things for others because “That never pays off.” I spent some time speaking with this young person about the damage and unhappiness that focusing on only oneself brings and that although we can’t control others, but we can live our lives in service to others. This will ultimately lead to happiness and contentment.

I grieve for anyone who feels disappointed and abused. I know that it is really difficult to rise above unkindness and not let it begin to eat at you.

Not long ago someone came to me and told me that many people hate me. That hurt my feelings, and I immediately felt tense and somewhat angry. I then realized that I can’t control what others feel or say. However, because I keep our kids as my focus and because I always think about how my decisions will impact our students, I believe that my decisions are always made with best intent in mind. That is what really matters—our kids, not whether or not people like me.

Life is hard, and people can be really unkind. Many times that is because they feel hurt and broken. Don’t let someone else’s hate eat at your joy. We are making a difference for all students in the district, and this is what we are all called to do. I appreciate all that you do for our precious children who need us.
The mission of Center Line Public Schools is to provide all students relevant and challenging learning experiences to inspire success and empower them to be leaders of tomorrow.

At Monday’s Board of Education, both Center Line High School and Academy 21 made presentations honoring the Board of Education and highlighting their accomplishments and plans for the year. We are so lucky to have the caliber of teachers and administrators that we do, and their level of commitment to our students beyond the school day.

I was really hoping my article would be about the Senate budget proposal about education, but the legislators are not quite ready to share their grand plan. So, you get my backup article.

As I grow older, I have found the increasing need to stretch. When I was younger, even though I stretched before every swim and soccer practice, it was not my favorite thing to do; it was just getting in the way of starting the actual practice. Now that I have gotten back to trying to be a more serious swimmer, I think I would have a catastrophic injury if I did not take the time to stretch. I have grown to love the feeling of loosening up my muscles before I work out.

I say all this because mentally stretching is even more important than physically stretching. When I am not mentally stretching and learning new skills, I feel very stagnant, almost in a funk. I do not feel as alive, confident, and happy as when I am adding new skills.

We are very blessed to be a part of a district that makes stretching one’s mind a huge priority. The district continues to provide rare opportunities. I was lucky enough to attend the Model Schools Conference twice while working for my prior district, and time after time John Hattie’s work on effect size for the greatest impact on student achievement was discussed. CLPS is having John Hattie’s group provide training in June and over the summer, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I hope our invitees will take advantage of. It is truly the ultimate stretch. I have added a link to John Hattie’s TEDx talk in Sweden. It gives a taste of what can be learned of this incredible opportunity: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzwJXUieD0U
HHS Expo

With the strong support of our fantastic business partners, the HHS Academy conducted an Jobs Prep Expo this week. Partners ranging from Center Line Public Safety and Ascension Hospital, to the Michigan Cancer Society, MyCare, and American House were on hand to interview seniors and give them feedback on their interview skills and resumes. The business partners universally agreed that our students did a great job and came to the interviews very well prepared.

The other sessions for seniors were critiquing sample interviewees and a speaker from Michigan Works! on how to begin the application process.

The afternoon was reserved for juniors who were able to speak to representatives of Oakland University as well as Macomb Community College. The other session was a panel of Center Line graduates who are either in college or working (or both!) who could speak to all the challenges that are around the corner for our graduates.

It was a big success for the HHS academy and gave students some great experience and certainly some things to think about to be better prepared for their futures.
CLHS Happenings

Art Awards

CLHS students won a total of 14 awards at the Extra Credit Union Art Show, including Best in Show - Tamara Sindy, Best 2D - Genevieve Dominick, and Best Digital - Kamilla Kostrubiec. Congratulations to all of our incredible artists!

MMSTC Senior Recognition

Congratulations to Alan Bladecki, Mahbub Jahid, and Alexander Penucevski, who were honored at the Macomb Mathematics Science Technology Center Senior Reception this evening. Your achievements these past four years are to be commended!

The Shape of Protein

The freshmen biology classes took colored paper representing different amino acids and made them into origami proteins. They were able to make a beautiful representation of protein shapes.
Macomb County All Academic

Congratulations to Sara Bezel who was honored at the Macomb County All Academic Banquet this week as one of the top achievers in the county. Also, not pictured but recognized: Thomas Bash.

What’s Up at Wolfe

Earth Day beautification activities at Wolfe!

Crothers’ Corner

Earth Day Clean Up

Panda Pals use their life skill of INITIATIVE to collect trash from the playground. The most common trash found was smashed water bottles and food wrappers.
LIT at WSU
As part of Roose’s Leaders in Training program, Mrs. Babcock took our 5th grade classes to Wayne State University where they took a 90-minute walking tour of the campus with student tour guides. Roose’s Leaders in Training program gives students the ability to attend field trips to local colleges and universities as a way to broaden their exposure to educational opportunities in the surrounding area.

Sensory Path
Roose’s Student Council, lead by Mrs. Babcock, Ms. Alfoldy and Mrs. Hamilton, installed a sensory path in the hallway as their big initiative this school year. Students fundraised for the path in the fall by selling stretchy string in the lunchroom and designed the path themselves. Sensory paths help kids build connections in the brain that are responsible for sight, touch and sound. Strengthening these pathways enables students to complete complex, multi-step tasks.

Earth Day Blast
Roose celebrated Earth Day last week with Earth Day Blast. There were recycling activities and arts and crafts, food, fun, and performances by students along with the book fair. See more pictures on the CLPS Facebook page!
Peck Points

Safety First
A real life superhero visited Peck to teach our students about staying safe at home and out in the community. Thank you, Sergeant Ruffini!

Special Person Day
3rd grade students wrote essays honoring a special person in their lives. They worked on identifying character traits, organizing their writing, and presenting their writing publicly. There were quite a few happy tears and plenty of hugs on this special day!

You make everything so special. I will never forget you or the special things we do together.

You are the one who made my life happy.

Nicholas P honored his mother, saying “You are the wise person I see before I close my eyes and the first, beautiful person I see in the morning. Your character traits are the BEST!”

Earth Day Activities
Happy Earth Day from these Kindergarten leaders! Nolan G. says to help the earth by picking up your garbage. Teon M. says to help by cleaning up. Noah C. says to help the Earth by watering plants and growing a vegetable garden “together strong and healthy.”

Yummy Science Lessons
I scream, you scream, we all scream for.......SCIENCE! Peck’s 2nd graders learned about phase changes by making homemade ice cream. Aubrey B. explains, “First it was a liquid. Then it was a solid, because we shook it up and it got colder and colder when we weren’t looking.”
Safety First!
Peck and Crothers staff had PrePlanLive training this week. PrePlanLive is a preparedness platform that will allow staff to report/be notified of safety incidences and access digital emergency plans. It also provides local first responders with the same information along with a 3D modeling of the facilities and livefeed access to security cameras.

ECC Notes

Reuse, Reduce, Recycle!
Earth Day was a great day to pick up trash and clear the grounds around the ECC. Children in Mrs. Keel and Ms. Tina’s GSRP class were super excited to go outside and “Clean the Earth!” Students have been learning all about the Three R’s and were so happy to do their part to take care of our planet!

Under the Sea
During their Sea Animal investigation, the students in Mrs. Karam and Ms. Gabby’s TBPS class enjoyed their small group activity using yummy goldfish. Math, writing, and a delicious snack... what a delightful way to learn!
**Upcoming Events**

5/1  Crothers PTC  Moms' & Dads' Club Meeting  4:30pm  7:30pm

5/3  Peck Color Run (rain date May 10)  Wolfe Evening Dress Up Dance  2:00pm  6:00-8:00pm

5/3 & 4  Hairspray @ CLHS Auditorium  7:00pm

5/5  Hairspray @ CLHS Auditorium  3:00pm

5/6  PTC/Boosters/Coaches Fundraiser Meeting @ Admin  6:30pm

5/9  District Showcase @ CLHS  5:30-8:00pm

5/13  Red Cross Blood Drive @ CLHS Choir Room  Panther Football Club  Board of Education Meeting @ Admin  all day  7:00pm  7:00pm

5/14  Peck PTC  Senior All Night Party Committee  6:30pm  6:30pm

5/15  CLHS Awards Night  6:30pm

5/16  St. Jude Trike-a-Thon @ ECC  6:00pm

5/17  Peck Beautification Day  Senior Prom @ Sycamore Hills  6:00pm

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**SHARE YOUR NEWS!**

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Submissions are welcome and encouraged; email your pictures and news to Sue Pauling at paulings@clps.org by Thursday noon to guarantee inclusion in that week’s edition.

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