



Pinto Press

a Mass Media class publication

October 9, 2019 - Volume 8, Issue 1

Moniteau County R-1 Schools



"Equipping today's children for tomorrow's challenges."

www.californiak12.org

What Is A Pinto?

From Dr. Sean Kirksey, California High School principal

When I first became the principal at California High School, there was no shortage of comments from friends and colleagues regarding our mascot. Some asked what a Pinto was, while others made comments like, "Sean, why is your mascot an exploding car from the seventies?" or "Sean, how are the fighting beans doing this season." Yes, our mascot is unique. In fact, we are the only high school in America who has a Pinto for a mascot. While some may poke fun at this notion, I have come to embrace it.

I believe it is very fitting that our mascot is one of a kind because our community is one of a kind. We have something rare and special here in California. At first glance, our school might seem like your average, run of the mill school. But, if you look closer, you will see a community as rare as the mascot that represents us.

We are blessed to be a part of a community filled with

pride and a willingness to support our schools. As we celebrated Homecoming, I was extremely proud of the school and facilities our graduates were coming home to. For example, this year California High School is 25 years old. Due to the hard work of our staff and the generosity of our community, our 25 year old high school is a better facility than ever before. Most schools deteriorate with age, but that is not how Pintos do things.

As you walk around the campus at California High School, the evidence of the exceptional support our community has provided is all around you. Our district has been financially responsible with the tax dollars provided to our school. However, what is truly rare, what sets us apart, what makes us Pintos; is the level of additional support we have received. In the last ten years, our community has donated more than 1 million dollars of additional support.

Pintos have provided an additional \$500,000 for the

Performing Arts Center, donated nearly \$100,000 for scoreboards, built concession stands, installed irrigation systems, constructed sidewalks, donated statues, provided thousands of dollars in musical equipment, and even worked until 4 in the

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Parent-Teacher Conferences

4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Elementary - classrooms

Oct. 22 & 29

Middle - gym

Oct. 24 & 29

High - commons/gym

Oct. 22 & 24



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October		8 Var Golf @ Russellville 9JV/V VB vs Versailles 7/8 FB @ Eldon JV/V SB vs Osage SENIOR NIGHT	9	10 JV/V SB vs Hallsville JV/V VB @ North Callaway 7/8 VB vs Versailles District Ag Grasslands Contest @ UCM	11 2nd grade field trip Kindergarten field trip Var FB vs Hallsville	12 CMU Band Day MS/JV/V XC @ Russellville
13	14 No School (Teacher Professional Development) Golf Sectionals @ St. Genevieve JV/V SB @ New Bloomfield 9JV FB @ Hallsville	15 HS Career Day 7/8 FB @ Hallsville 7/8 VB @ Russellville 9JV/V VB @ Fatima	16 ES Donuts with Dad 10/11 FAFSA Frenzy (must pre-register) ACT Workshop (English/Reading) 5:45 p.m. School Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. in CHS Library	17 3rd Grade Program 7:00 p.m. in CPAC MS/JV/V XC @ Eldon 9JV/V VB vs Osage 7/8 VB vs Laura Speed Elliott FFA State Grasslands Contest	18 Var FB vs SoBoCo SENIOR NIGHT	19 Southern Boone Marching Festival Var VB Tournament @ Versailles 7/8 FB vs SoBoCo
Softball District Softball						
20 Fall Choral Concert in the CPAC CHS 2:00 p.m. CMS 4:00 p.m.	21 9JV FB vs SoBoCo 9JV/V VB vs Smith-Cotton SENIOR NIGHT Girls State Golf @ Meadow Lake, New Bloomfield	22 HS P/T Conferences with FAFSA Frenzy ES P/T Conferences 4:00-8:00 p.m. JV/V VB @ Hallsville	23 Softball Sectionals	24 HS P/T Conferences with FAFSA Frenzy MS P/T Conferences 4:00-8:00 p.m.	25 Var FB @ Blair Oaks	26 Softball Quarterfinals JV/V XC @ Fatima
Red Ribbon Week						
27	28 Trick-or-Treat on Pinto Street 6:00-8:00 p.m. in high school commons	29 ES & MS P/T Conferences 4:00-8:00 p.m. Major Saver Fund Raiser ends	30 ACT Workshop (Math/Science) 5:45 p.m.	31	1 No School	2 HS District Band Auditions @ Warrensburg XC District @ Bowling Green Volleyball Sectionals
National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN						
Volleyball District Tournament				Softball State Championship		
3	4	5	6 Area FFA Fall Speaking Contest @ Jamestown	7	8 6th Grade field trip to CMU in Fayette	9 XC State @ Oak Hills in JC CHS Barnwarming 7:00 p.m.
State Volleyball						
10	11 No School (Teacher Professional Development)	12	13 District FFA Fall Speaking Contest @ Warrensburg	14	15 ES Movie Night 7:00 p.m. in the Gym	16 HS Musical 7:00 p.m. in CPAC

For athletic event times, go to the district calendar on www.californiak12.org

In my room . . . Third grade excited for STEM project

By Jasmine Kerley

Andrea Hill's third grade class is working on a STEM project (science, technology, engineering, and math). The students are working together to build a bridge model out of provided materials.

The students listened to a story



Working together, students use cereal boxes, toilet paper rolls, tape, and other materials to figure out how to build a bridge.

conclusions and analyze together to try and make a bridge model just from listening to the story.

"They listened to a story titled Pop's Bridge. It is about building the Golden Gate Bridge. It was part of their Journeys Reading Series story of the week," said Hill.

They had all day September 27 to work on the STEM project.

"The kids feel really excited, and they love doing the project," Hill said. "The project goes along with the story, and they're connecting science and reading together."



Celebrating birthdays makes each child feel special



Birthday girl Gillian Duenow passes out birthday treats to her third grade classmates to enjoy during lunch.

By Mckala Alber and Christy Heimericks

Nancy Abernathy has been teaching for eighteen years. Over the years she has found an efficient way of celebrating birthdays at school without taking away from the learning environment.

Abernathy celebrates the birthday of every student in her class including the kids with birthdays over the summer.

"Students with birthdays over the summer get to pick a day towards the end of the year to celebrate," Abernathy said.

While most other teachers celebrate in their classroom, Abernathy likes to have her celebrations during lunch time. She allows the students to bring in store-bought treats. Regardless of bringing in snacks, Abernathy likes to have her and the students sing Happy Birthday to the birthday kid during lunch.

Abernathy said, "about 20% of students don't bring treats in."

Even if the student doesn't bring in snacks, the school and Abernathy still try to celebrate the special day. In the mornings, the office announces all birthdays for that day, and if a birthday happens on a weekend, it is announced the following day back.

Important immunizations in public schooling

By Hailey Tarrants, 2019 Graduate

It is a state law for children attending a public school to get the required vaccines.

California Elementary School requires students to get 14 vaccines in order to register for school. Periodically students have to get four DTap's (diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough), three polio shots, 2 MMR's (measles, mumps, and rubella (German measles)), three Hepatitis B shots, and 2 varicella (chickenpox) shots.

Parents are allowed to file a religious exemption for their child if the vaccine goes against their sincere religious beliefs. There is also a medical exemption for a child with a medical condition, such as cancer, that would not allow them to get certain vaccinations.

"These vaccines have been required for a long time," said district nurse Jo Ann Bestgen. "State laws establish immunization requirements for school children. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) makes national vaccine policy recommendations."

In the eighth grade students are required to have a Tdap booster shot and their first Meningococcal vaccine. There is a recommended vaccine called gardasil (HPV) but is not required. If any student does not have an exemption and does not have any one of the required vaccinations, they will not be allowed to attend school.

Doctors, some pharmacies, and health departments provide these vaccinations. Depending on insurance and financial situations, vaccinations may be free. Many health departments are able to work around certain financial difficulties to give the child the vaccination they need.

Vaccinations are not only for the child's benefit but for the children around them.

There are some exceptions, but with the recent trend of "anti vax" parents and the outbreak of measles in America, it's pretty obvious why we need vaccines.

Data binders motivate students, guide teachers

By McKayne Barbour

For over five years, data binders have been motivating California Elementary kids. They help students see themselves grow from the start of the year to the end.

Teresa Dusenberg and Stephanie Zimmerman, both fifth grade teachers, showed great praise for the data binders.

Zimmerman said, "It feels like the students are more in tune to what their work is."

The binders are also a great way to show parents the improvement. Every couple weeks teachers send home worksheets and tests from the data binder to show how their child is doing.

Data Binders also allow students to be creative as they are allowed to personalize them. Students start new data binders at the start of each year allowing them to change designs.

The data binders have helped many



This data binder was designed by a fifth grade student.

kids focus on where they are academically and help them focus on what they are struggling in.

"It helps students get a better grasp of what they need to work on to get from point A to B," said Dusenberg.

The data binders have also helped teachers minimize the amount of data they have to collect on their own. Teachers still collect all of the data they used to, but now students can see all of the data that only teachers used to see.

Donuts for Dad

Wednesday, October 16
CES Cafeteria
7:00-8:00 a.m.



YEE-HAW!

Old Western Third Grade
Concert!

Thursday,
October 17
7:00 p.m.



Performing Arts Center

Trick or Treat on Pinto Street



Monday, Oct. 28 🦋 6-8 p.m.
California High School

Bring canned good for entry!

This newsletter is a product of the CHS Mass Media class taught by Mrs. Christy Heimericks.

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In my room . . . New face in assistant principal office

By Jordan Bondurant



Derek Scroggins, assistant middle school principal and head high school football coach, has been working in education for 15 years. This is his first year in administration, but he has been a weights and social studies teacher in the past.

Scroggins begins each day greeting the kids as they get to school. He gets to see them in the lunch room and hallways as well and tries to get in classrooms as much as possible.

“My biggest goal of the day is to find time between tasks to be around

the kids,” Scroggins said.

He puts in anywhere from 12-16 hours a day to make an impact on the middle school kids and the high school football team. He says that the job takes time, patience, and high expectations.

Scroggins said, “the best part of my job is feeling like I’m making an impact.”

The job varies day to day depending on if meetings or conferences. He always stays busy and has a different schedule everyday.

“I enjoy having the principal to work with, love the teachers, and the students are respectful,” said Scroggins.

Scroggins came to coach the football team because he saw how much potential that we have. If he worked at the high school it would be easier for him to recruit kids; however, he said, “I love working with middle school aged kids, and it would be hard to leave that.”

Adjusting from elementary to middle school

By Spencer Messerli

The transition from fifth to sixth grade is a big step in a kid’s life. Marcia Bibb, who has been the middle school counselor for 16 years said, “some kids are quick with an adjustment and with some kids, it takes more time.”

Responsibility is a huge factor when students transition from fifth to sixth grade. Throughout the years of middle school, the amount of homework is increased and kids are responsible to make it to class on time every day. The kids go from having one to two classes a day to having eight classes a day.

“The kids are normally nervous about their first days of school, but once they get used to it, they seem to handle it pretty well,” said Bibb.

One of the most monumental adjustments when kids become middle schoolers is having a locker. They must keep their lockers clean and make sure they don’t forget their homework.

Coming into sixth grade also creates a challenge by learning their way around the building. Luckily they have peer helpers who can give the sixth graders a tour of



Sixth grade students navigate the halls of California Middle School in their first year after elementary.

the school. Learning a new building will also be challenging for students that are new to California.

They are allowed to have a little more freedom in the middle school. Mainly, they do not have to walk in a line, and they can talk to their friends in the halls, unlike in elementary school.

Bibb said, “for everyone, it takes some getting used to. Once they figure it out, they got it.”

FALL CHOIR CONCERT

Sunday, October 20 in the CPAC



High school
2:00 p.m.

director Michele Bilyeu

Middle school
4:00 p.m.

director Erika DeMoss

New sport, new opportunities for middle school girls

By Chris Cassil

California’s seventh and eighth grades got a new fall sport this year: girls softball.

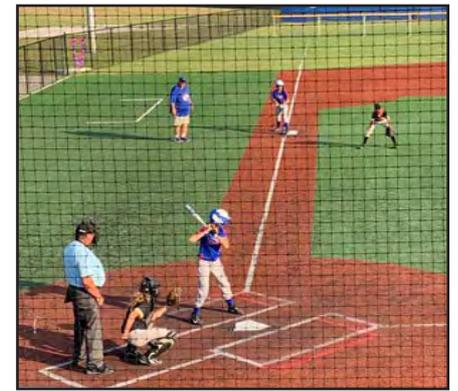
Coach Fitzwater says he really enjoys teaching the group of girls playing.

Fitzwater formerly coached California softball 13 years. He is helped by assistant coach Lauren Fischer who also teaches kindergarten at the elementary school.

The two teams only play regular season games and are not part of any leagues. The teams play all their home games at the high school campus.

Fitzwater said, “It’s really nice to have that facility to use.”

Coach Steve Stock, head varsity softball coach, thinks a middle school team is a valid choice. It will provide an opportunity for young girls to try out the sport or to get better at the sport by start-



Having a middle school softball team will help the girls get better for high school.

ing at a younger age in preparation for high school softball.

There is an A and B team for the different skill levels of players. Both teams have just enough girls to play, with a total of 18 players.

What is a pinto? cont. from pg 1

morning installing sod for the baseball/softball complex. Any of those examples of additional support would be rare, but we were given all of them. And, there are even more examples. Too many to mention, in fact.

To understand what it means to be a Pinto, you have to understand how much support our community provides. Then you understand how rare and special it is to be a Pinto! As our community turns its focus to the elementary and middle school campuses with our upcoming April of 2020 Bond Issue, I’m excited to see what the future holds for our youngest Pintos. Thank you Pintos from a grateful principal and father!

Rachel’s chain of kindness reaches California

By McKayne Barbour

On September 4th, Rachel’s Challenge came back to California schools for the first time since 2012. The California Ministerial Alliance paid for Rachel’s Challenge to come back.

Dwight Sanders, superintendent at California schools loves the message Rachel’s Challenge spreads.

“It’s a great message for everybody, not just the students,” said Sanders.

This assembly challenges students to pass down acts of kindness. Matt Abernathy, principal at CMS attended the middle and high school assembly along with the community presentation later that evening.

“They spoke about accepting five challenges: look for the best in others, dream big, choose positive influences, speak with kindness, and start your own chain reac-

tion,” said Abernathy.

Students who accepted the challenge could stay after the assembly to participate in becoming a “Friend of Rachel.” Students who participated will lead the charge in starting acts of kindness in the school district.



The Rachel’s Challenge assembly speaker presented slides and videos about the heart and desire of Columbine victim Rachel Scott to the middle and high school students.

High school remodels for safety

By Bryce Menhennet

This past summer at the high school the main office was renovated to fit the district's desire for a safer campus.

The renovations that were made include opening up the wall to a classroom to become part of the main office. The counselors moved into this space to give their outside visitors direct access.

The reasoning behind these changes is for safety, which is always a priority at California High School. Parents with student concerns and former students who need academic records can now take care of counseling department business without going into other parts of the building.

The renovations were done during summer break. The school did not have to contract out the work because the school's maintenance workers were able to complete it effectively. If the school had contracted to an outside company, the cost would be much higher than what



The counselors office and in school suspension room switched rooms after undergoing some in-house remodeling.

it ended up costing the district.

The renovations also allowed for the ISS, credit recovery, and MO-options rooms to move closer to the office.

Dr. Sean Kirksey, high school principal, said, "we plan to continue to improve the layout of the office so we can make the school more secure and functional for students and staff."

Donated statue cultivates school spirit

By Jacob McCracken

Former California High School graduates John McPherson and Debbie Sparks describe their peers as "kind of a unique class." Both spoke on how their class was known around the school board, "not always for the best reasons." Funny enough, this "crazy" class is also responsible for one of the most notable donations seen around the CHS building.

McPherson is one of the 8-10 seniors from the class of 69' involved in the beautiful Pinto Pride horse statue now in front of the school. During the class' 45th reunion, they began to think about a donation, and around October 2018, the idea for a pinto horse statue came to life.

"Several of us dedicated quite a bit of time," McPherson said.

And that, they did. Sparks said almost all of the remaining class of 69' donated to the cause. It was a turnout no one expected, and gives a great example of school pride.

McPherson humbly describes his class' donation as any of the other dona-



A majority of the class of 69' gathered around the new horse statue.

tions from the past, deciding he did not want to put a price on it, and declining to take a picture with the statue alone. However, he did give away some basic statistics. The Horse is 50 hands tall; the



District maintenance removes old shrubs to make room for installation of the statue in front of the high school.

base of the statue weighs three and a half tons; and the fiberglass figure weighs 150 pounds.

McPherson politely asked to make one thing clear: "Please respect the donation."

McPherson claims he had to clean black streaks off the horse statue itself from kids climbing it, and for the work and money going into the project, it would be a shame to see it deteriorated so soon.

Sparks said, "This is something in which everyone can take pride."

Sparks expressed concern over the spirit of the high school alumni, as only a few graduating seniors attended the last annual alumni event. One of McPherson's foremost hopes was to revitalize, or expand and extend school spirit.

"Almost all kids participated in activities [in our day], but now, not nearly as many," McPherson said.

So perhaps the school should not look at the statue with the thought of cost or shine, but gaze at it as a symbol of school pride.

In my room . . . Life skills, lessons in CHS piano

By Jacob McCracken

Piano is one of the fine arts programs associated with CHS. The class is first available in freshman year and can be taken at any point after that. It provides basic skills in both piano and music playing in general.

Michele Bilyeu teaches both choir and piano. Both of these jobs require understanding of music and dedication to all skill levels. Bilyeu is willing to coach anyone willing to give the class a shot.

"They can become piano players, but how good of a player they become depends a lot on the amount of work they are willing to put



in," Bilyeu said.

In order to help interested students understand piano playing more, students in this class will receive worksheets based on music notes, clefs, and more. The course also gives out a generous amount

of information of music playing in general. If one can learn to play the piano, one can learn to play any instrument.

"For pretty much all the students, the first few weeks are easy. It gradually becomes harder," Bilyeu said.

However, that should not scare anyone away. The class is fun and gives a skill that not many possess. Even if piano isn't an interest, knowing how to play even the simplest tunes can create a proud feeling.

From "Mary Had a Little Lamb" to "Jingle Bells," Bilyeu describes the class as "absolutely a benefit to students."



FAFSA

Frenzy

Oct. 22 - 24

4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

CHS Counseling Office

SENIORS ONLY



Bring: Chromebook, 2017 completed tax-form from parent, and FSA ID