Superintendent’s Reflections

March is designated as Reading Month across the nation. In schools during the month of March, many special activities, guest readers, and celebrations are planned. Students love to dress in their favorite book character, swap books, and enjoy special events. We love for our kids to have fun.

The truth is that students must read and write all year long. When students build literacy skills, more opportunities become available. Besides, reading takes you places without the hassle of traveling. J

This is a great time to visit our schools. Staff looks for guest readers, and students are involved in fun and educational activities to further support reading. I am excited to be able to carve out time to read to children, as they are our focus.

If you are interested in being a part of the fun, contact your local building administrator and set up a time to come in.

Read, read, read!!

In the words of George R.R. Martin, “A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies . . . The man who never reads lives only one.”
I was recently doing some reading about retaining employees – how companies keep their talent. There are all kinds of scholarly, researched-based articles, and there are less substantial “top ten lists” articles (similar to articles you find in fashion magazines) to read. While there certainly is substance in all of the articles (even the top ten lists), the common theme around employee retention is building relationships with your employees.

Sound familiar? It is the same stuff we discuss regarding getting our kids to produce good work – building connections and creating real relationships with them will lead to greater results.

Of course there are other aspects that organizations can do to promote retention. Such things include continuing to develop skills of their employees and encouraging creativity. Also, it’s important to give developmental feedback. Organizations retain people when they are clear and consistent with their goals and vision. These are all things that translate to good teaching – allowing students to be creative, giving feedback to student work, and providing clarity when it comes to learning targets. (The parallels between good teaching and effective retention practices are actually quite interesting.)

However, each article (substantial or not) comes down to the importance of recognizing positive contributions from employees and showing that you care about employees. It’s a good reminder for all of us – to show people that work for our organization (no matter the level) that they are cared for. (Not a bad connection to effective teaching, too.) Staff appreciations or thoughtful emails and notes are nice, but truly showing people they are valued and cared for should be a priority for us all.

**Bond Update**

Mike Malone and Brian Hinz of Partners in Architecture (and Rob Jacobs with McCarthy & Smith) gave an update on the bond work specific to the new Peck Elementary/Early Childhood Center project during Monday’s Board of Education meeting. See all of the slides on our website under Bond Information.

**Board of Education**

Board of Education recognized Center Line High School students for their achievements in the Scholastic Art Competition. Teacher Shelley Keenan is pictured here with Genevieve Dominick, who won three awards for Printmaking - Honorable Mention; Drawing, Colored Pencil - Silver Key; Drawing, Mixed Media - Silver Key.
Careers come in many shapes and sizes, and one size does not fit all. What most young workers will find in the modern workplace is the “ability for mobility;” in other words, once a person is hired into a company as, say a delivery driver, they should not view that job as their only position. As that delivery driver sees what goes on in that company and likes the sales associate position or the hydraulics mechanic or some other job, companies are VERY receptive to not only allowing that kind of move, but encouraging that employee and supporting that employee—even to the point of PAYING for the training or certification!

Recently, two companies hosted CL teams: MichiganCAT and Binson’s Medical Equipment & Supplies. MichiganCAT provided an informational session and tour of its Shelby repair facility. One of the largest companies in the country, CAT has several locations in Michigan as well as nationwide and a variety of career paths for students to enter: sales, transportation, finance, mechanical repair techs, management, and more.

Binson’s has many similarities. The company has more than a dozen locations around the metro area even one in Florida. There are a multitude of career paths for new hires, and ability for mobility is encouraged at Binson’s as well: business, sales, delivery, customer service, pharmacy, machine repair, and more.

Both of these companies also offer tuition reimbursement for their employees seeking higher education. MichiganCAT also offers a sponsorship program for those desiring certain advanced mechanical specialties like diesel mechanics and hydraulics.

The CL teams will use this knowledge to guide lesson planning as well as to provide student experience opportunities including job shadowing and even internships. This is simply one more way the Academies are connecting schools to the community to provide opportunity for students.

Anyone interested in careers with either of these companies—and they do have job-openings—should go to michiganconstruction.com, michigancat.com/about/careers, or binsons.com (then click on Employment).
CLHS Happenings

FAFSA Challenge - 2nd Place!
CLHS took 2nd place in the Race to the FAFSA Line Challenge, behind Regina High School. CLHS also finished 8th in the state of schools that have over 144+ students. At the deadline for state aid (March 1), we finished with 66% FAFSA completion percentage, which was 44% higher than we were at the deadline last year. We still have until the June deadline to file for federal aid. Way to go, seniors!

Mentors in Action
Last week Panther Pals mentors (Juniors and Seniors) came to the 9th grade math classes in small groups to talk about high school life. They shared their own high school experiences as well as things they wish they had known when they were freshmen. The 9th graders were able to ask questions and get real time advice from upper classmen who are living it. Both the freshmen and the mentors really enjoyed it and liked getting to know each other a little better!

Girls’ Basketball Rocks the Season
Our Lady Panther’s’ basketball beat Warren Lincoln 44-25 in the district finals game to earn the title of District Champs! On Monday, the girls took on Detroit University Prep in the first round of Regionals and won 55-49, earning the right to play in the regional final match on Wednesday. Great job, ladies!

At press time, the outcome was yet unknown. Stay tuned!
Congratulations to Wolfe 8th grade band member Marissa Harenski! She performed as a member of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Middle School Honors Band program, held last night at Orchestra Hall. Each of the ensembles performed some very challenging music, which the students had only one day to prepare. We are very proud of Marissa for representing our school and community!

JROTC Visits Air Force Museum

On Monday, the JROTC visited the National Museum of the US Air Force in Ohio. They toured the museum and the base’s dorm rooms.

What’s Up at Wolfe

Honors Band with DSO
**Roose Roundup**

**Lego Your Imagination**

Lego Your Imagination is our Reading Month theme at Roose. At our kickoff assembly, Mr. Grob, Mrs. Kruszewski, and Mrs. Rode played a game of Lego Twister. The Lego characters were encouraging all our Rockets to read and meet our school wide goal. Each student has a goal to read 200 minutes, with a school goal of 150,000 minutes. The month will culminate on March 28th with a Family Reading Night celebration.

Abby took charge on morning announcements by giving the entire school a synopsis of her chapter book, *The Chocolate Touch*.

**Peck Points**

**Map Studies**

A giant map of Michigan visited Peck on March 8th. Students had a great time exploring our Great Lakes State. Next up: giant map-folding skills for teachers and principals....

Roose students pushed the boundaries of form as they explored abstract expressionism using water color and markers.

Kindergarten Wisdom: Reading with a friend is twice the fun!
March is Reading Month

One of the best parts of reading month is all the fantastic readers that are popping into the classrooms! Ms. Clynick and Mrs. Darga’s class was surprised to have their favorite reader, Ms. Mary, stop in to read *Flamingo Plays Bingo* and *Mary Wears What She Wants*! The children loved hearing the stories and had lots of questions for Ms. Mary. They learned that Ms. Mary has two daughters, loves spending time with her family, and enjoys playing cards, but her most favorite thing to do is visit the library!

Dr. McBrady, one of our Assistant Superintendents, visited the ECC to read to some of our classrooms. She shared one of her son’s favorite books, *We are the Groovicorns!* Children in Ms. Jenifer and Mrs. Cilia’s class were fascinated with the story.

Each day, we have a theme for Reading Month. The children truly enjoyed Favorites Day this week, when they could dress as their favorite character from a book.

Just like reading, it’s always a good time to celebrate friendship. Classmates in Ms. Clynick and Mrs. Darga’s room have formed quite a bond during the school year, and spent their morning walking around the gym, arm in arm, singing out “Friendship, Friendship!”

**It’s Cindy Lou Who from *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* and the mischievous mouse from *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie.*

**Mrs. Keel showed up as the title character from *Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons.*

**Pinkalicious came to school today, wearing her crown and wings.

**A unicorn, Fancy Nancy, Elsa, a Transformers character, and Spider-man stopped in the office to visit Ms. Sheryl.

**ECC Notes**

![Image of ECC students and staff]
Upcoming Events

3/15-16  FIRST Robotics Competition @ CLHS  all day
3/18     Roose PTC                  6:30pm
3/19     Band Boosters             7:00pm
3/20     Preschool Enrollment Open House
         Elementary Conferences (Peck, Crothers)
         Elementary Conferences (Roose)  4:00-7:00pm
3/21     Elementary Conferences (Peck, Crothers)
         Elementary Conferences (Roose)
         Wolfe Roundtable               4:15-7:15pm
3/22     After School Dance @ Wolfe
         Quartermania @ CLHS Cafeteria  4:30-7:30pm
3/24     Lions Club Pancake Breakfast @ CLHS Cafeteria  6:00pm
3/25     Coffee Club Community Conversations @ Hometown Heroes
         Board of Education Meeting     9:00am-Noon
3/26     Wolfe PTC                  9:00am & 5:00pm
3/27     Reading, Math & Science Night @ Peck  7:00pm
3/28     Wolfe PTC                  6:00pm

The Week in Review is published every Friday during the school year.

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.