



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE TOMORROW RIVER

DISTRICT OFFICE

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ANNUAL MEETING - OCTOBER 24, 2016 SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The community members of the Tomorrow River School District have reason to be proud of the achievements of our students during the 2015-2016 school year, which reflects positively upon our scholars, their parents, their educators, and all those who support our schools. Following are both highlights and achievements which indicate the successful year our students and staff experienced at all levels of the District. We also offer an overview of the goals we have established for the 2016-2017 school year. Thank you for your support!

– *Dennis Raabe*

2015–2016 STAFF AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Elementary Staff Achievements:

- Working with UWSP, staff hosted six Elementary Method Block students and two student teachers during the year. The block students and student teachers work with a designated teacher as a pre-student experience in an effort to prepare for future careers in Education.
- Aralda Bell served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the Flag Retirement and Flag Folding demonstrations at Diversity Days at The Highland near Neillsville which all 4th graders attended.

RTI

- All Elementary Teachers are trained in FAST and are comfortable using it to give Reading and Math screeners.
- Teachers are taking ownership and running their own Tier 2 groups.
- Teachers who have Tier 2 RTI groups can now create a Progress Monitor and use it in FAST independently.

Technology (Elementary and Middle School)

- Kindergarten and first grade students have learned to manipulate the hardware and grow comfortable with its use while working through activities that support their classroom curriculum. Second graders are introduced to the 10 key typing method and the students continue to practice this method through the 6th grade. The 4th graders type children's story books, replacing nouns with pictures. The 4th graders then share their work with 4-K and kindergarten students, reading the words as the younger students read the picture. The 8th grade students research a social issue, and blend music, words, and graphics to create a video with an affecting message .

Amherst After School Success Program (AASSP)

- AASSP ended the year with over 130 students enrolled in the program.

- Sixteen students signed up for the AASSP Reading Club. They were selected by the RTI department and paired with our tutors to get one-on-one or small group tutoring sessions two days per week.
- AASSP offered Drama Club for the first time, led by Nina Cass. Over 40 students participated. We had a full house for Our Drama Club Dinner Theater.
- AASSP received 5 grants: Wal-Mart Foundation – \$1,500; Lioness Club Grant – \$1,000; Associated Bank Grant – \$250; Bock Run Inc. Grant – \$500 (completed by Joe Sbertoli); and a Lioness Club Grant for Drama Club – \$300 (completed by Nina Cass).
- Our Fundraising efforts throughout the year helped us raise over \$700.

Tomorrow River Community Charter School (TRCCS)

- Chamomile Nusz, the School Coordinator at TRCCS, was nominated and accepted the position of Secretary on the board for the Alliance for Public Waldorf Education, a national coalition of over 50 Waldorf Charter Schools. This puts TRCCS in an active role nationally, working to bring Public Waldorf Education to a broader audience.
- TRCCS began the 2016-2017 school year with an increased enrollment of 124 scholars, full classes, and waiting lists for most classes.
- TRCCS Nature Studies Classes are dynamic, with 31 University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Environmental Education Practicum students working with TRCCS students twice a week. This is a wonderful opportunity for both University students to become acquainted with an alternative learning environment and for the TRCCS students to learn from enthusiastic college students who are impassioned by environmental education.
- TRCCS plays an active role in the community with Seasonal Festivals, monthly field trips, visiting artists, and experts in the classroom, fundraisers, and a Holiday Fair.

Elementary Student Achievements:

- Youth Art Month: 200+ students from the Tomorrow River School District had their art work displayed at locations throughout Portage County, including the International Bank of Amherst, The Lettie Jensen Library, The Jensen Center, and the Portage County Library.
Spring Art Show: All students in grades Kindergarten-6th grade had work displayed at the Flora and Fauna Art Show in April.
- PTO Read-In Trivia was organized by 4th grade teacher Crystal Lutz for its fifth successful year. Last year's theme was Habitat... What. There were 153 students from Kindergarten to 6th grade who participated on 24 teams. Students read from provided books for the month leading up to the trivia night. At the Friday night event, students answered trivia questions about the books and earned prizes. The evening ran smoothly with the help from volunteer staff members and parent chaperones.
- Amherst Elementary Student Council members welcomed new students to school with a tour, Amherst pencil, and a gift certificate to the school store. They provided a variety of school supplies for students to purchase through the School Store. The group also bought "Falcon Way" t-shirts for all 4K students and for students new to the District. Student Council helped keep the playground equipment organized and balls pumped up throughout the year. Student Council members read narrations and the Pledge of Allegiance during the Veterans Day Program. They showed their appreciation to the Elementary staff with a gift certificate to the Horticulture class plant sale and a poem. Members helped plan Red Ribbon Week activities and Earth/Spirit Week activities. They donated money to Trees from Home, Tomorrow River Area Community Kitchen (TRACK), and to the Foster Grandparent Program of Portage County. Members sponsored a Spiritwear Sale and collected milk caps as fundraisers, and also raised money for the American Heart Association through Jump Rope for Heart.

Middle School Staff Achievements:

- The Middle School was the Wisconsin Character Education Partnership Promising Practice Award Recipient for the character lessons program.
- The Middle School Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Gateway program has expanded to all the 7th grade students taking the Design and Modeling course, with all 8th grade students taking the Automation and Robotics class.
- Tomorrow River Education Grant: Our District was awarded \$12,600 from the George Rogers Memorial Tomorrow River Fund through the Community Foundation in November of 2015. This grant supported the development and introduction of a 7th grade "Day at the River" during which all 7th grade students participated in math, social studies, science, and language arts activities at Nelson Park in May. The culminating activity in the 7th grade week-long cross-curricular study focused on the Tomorrow River was a canoe trip along a portion of the river. Using supplies and resources purchased with grant funding, Kathleen Nicholson's 4th grade class will embark on a study of the Tomorrow River through the seasons during the 2016-2017 school year. Students will use photo journaling and investigations of plant and animal populations by the river to guide their observations. Additionally, funding from this grant will be used in 2016-2017 to expand an ongoing 8th grade study of the Tomorrow River Watershed. With the purchase of new technology, the 8th grade program will develop stronger links with language arts using video interviews and video editing during a fall watershed field trip. The grant also supported the upgrade of old testing equipment and the purchase of new water testing equipment for student use on the field trip.

MAP/RTI

- Teachers are using the data (i.e. MAP, Fast) to drive their instruction on all levels (Universal instruction and RTI tiered instruction). This includes a behavior RTI.
- Students are aware of their own data (assessments) and use it to better their skills in RTI enrichment.
- Teachers have RTI checklists to lead discussion during team collaboration and when looking to regroup students for tiered RTI.
- Students and parents are becoming more familiar with the purpose and ideas of RTI. Brochures are sent home, news articles support and explain RTI, and there are teacher-led discussions at conferences.
- Teachers are searching for new ways to enhance their tiered instruction.
- Teachers feel comfortable asking RTI staff for assistance and guidance.
- Teachers feel comfortable making suggestions to better our RTI Framework.
- Our MAP data over the past six years supports our implementation and success of our RTI Framework. Students who were scoring below benchmark are making larger gains on a more regular basis. Students see a purpose in our MAP testing and work hard to show teachers their ability. They feel great pride when they can see their personal growth as readers and as mathematicians.

RTI

- Two teachers have completed the process of the new SLD law.
- Each grade level received \$250 toward RTI enrichment via the District grant.
- Teachers have been making use of Mobymax to enhance their Tier 1 and 2 students in the area of math, reading, and language arts.
- Teachers continue to use the collected MAP and FAST data to make educated groupings for RTI math and reading.

Social Media

- Facebook page has over 700 likes; videos and pictures are being added, as well as throw back Thursdays (pictures from old yearbooks).

Project Lead the Way

- Project Lead the Way (PLTW) class is part of a new push in education to bring engineering standards and the idea of design into the classrooms. The class provides students with the opportunity to apply skills they have learned in previous math classes to the designing and creating process. Mr. Miller has added a 3D printer to 7th grade Design and Modeling Class.

Middle School Student Achievements:

- In the 2015-2016 school year, AMS students earned a record high 2,646 Falcon PRIDE POPS cards. The Falcon PRIDE cards are awarded to students who have gone above and beyond in the character areas of Falcon PRIDE (Personal responsibility, Respect, Integrity, Dedication, and Excellence).

RTI

- Overall, the number of Reading students placing into the Lo percentile, according to MAP, has been cut in half. For example, in the fall, eight 5th grade students (12%) scored within this range compared to four students (6%) in the spring. This same pattern continues in grades 6, 7, and 8.
- In 8th grade: Out of the three T3 reading students from the beginning of the school year, 0 students continue to meet the T3 Criteria.
- In 5th grade MAP Math, the number of students scoring in the Lo percentile has gone from 8 students (12%) to 1 student (2%).
- According to the 6th grade MAP Math, the HiAvg group grew from 22% to 30% and the Hi category grew from 16% to 20%.
- In 7th grade, out of the seven T3 reading students from the beginning of the school year, only one student continues to meet the T3 Criteria.
- According to the Reading Screener in FAST, the number of students in the High Risk category has been reduced in grades 5, 6, 7, and 8.

GT highlights

- Geography Bee: 7th grader Brady Loken won the 6th/7th/8th grade Geography Bee, Lauren Bird received 2nd place, while Gabe Todd and Megan Wolf tied for 3rd place.
- 5th grader Gabe Robinson took 1st place in the 4th/5th Bee while Wyatt Blaskowski took 2nd and Bryce Bunting took 3rd.
- Spelling Bee: Samantha Anglemyer (1st place) and Ava Mckenzie (2nd place) from the 6/7/8 Bee earned invitations to compete in the Regional Spelling Bee held in Wild Rose on February 10th. 4th/ 5th grade Spelling Bee winners, Anna Neuenfeldt (1st place) and Severina Anderson (2nd place) earned an opportunity to compete in the Central Wisconsin Talented and Gifted Network Elementary Regional Spelling Bee on February 2, 2016 in Portage, WI.
- Math Maniacs: The following 7th and 8th grade students were selected to participate in a Math Maniacs competition in Wild Rose in March: Tristan Schelvan, Ava McKenzie, Jo Jo Peplinski, Kate Omernik, Christopher Anderson, Owen Zakrzewski, Kennedy Zarnke, Josalin Kumm.
- College Days for Kids: Seven 6th graders were selected to participate in this year's College Days for Kids at UWSP. These students attended college courses taught by actual professors in a one-day workshop: Samantha Anglemyer, Alexa Shulfer, Shelby Lutz, Dylan Werachowski, Gabe Todd, Bailey Maxwell, Ben Lee.
- Writing Contest: This year, students submitted pieces of writing in January and February. A panel of teachers reviewed the pieces and chose the winners. The 1st place winners attended a writer's workshop in Baraboo in May. Writing pieces were published in a Central Wisconsin Anthology. Samantha Anglemyer and Shelby Lutz for 6th grade; Cole Oleson, Cassidy Kostuch, and Beverly Thompson for 5th grade; Jen Omernik, Riley Kostuch, and Max Voss for 4th grade; and Eli Zakrewski, Anna Olson, and Tatjana Cibaric for 3rd grade.
- Creative Arts Festival: Seven 5th graders were selected to participate in this year's Creative Arts Festival in Wautoma: Jacob Spoelstra, Callie Konkol, Cassidy Kostuch, Asha Smith, Hailey Peterson, Ruby Anthony, Blake Heinz.

High School Staff Achievements:

- The 2015-2016 school year was a good year for the Technology and Engineering department. The Project Lead the Way High School curriculum is now full with the two core classes being taught as well as one advanced course.
- Kathy Suski, Spanish Club, took 18 Amherst High School students for nine days to Guatemala and Belize. Students were immersed in the language and culture where they needed to use their Spanish skills. Students participated in a number of excursions and also visited a daycare center in Guatemala and a school in Belize. Before their time with the children, students shopped for donations at a local store. It was a wonderful experience for all.
- Jason Pickering attended a psychology institute over the summer for 5 days that gave him many resources and a new complete set of AP psychology books.

High School Student Achievements:

- Sixteen out of 20 AP Psychology students passed the AP exam.
- The Advanced Metals students completed construction of the second Formula Student race car and competed at the annual race at Road America in Elkhart Lake Wisconsin. The new car took 1st place in the Modified Class, posting the fastest lap time on the long course.

Art

- Fine Arts Night on February 14, 2016 was huge for art and music.
- Visual Arts Classic competed at the Regional and State level and placed 1st in many categories.
- Senior Art Show and Awards took place right before graduation in May.
- Metals and Glass was a new course last year, and the students made amazing things like stained glass.
- We went on field trips to Jurustic Park in Marshfield, a Glass Blowing demo at UWSP, and in the spring they had a hands on field trip with glass at UWSP.
- Alyssa Pagel, Aimee Hintz, and Emily Deyo worked all year on the globe mural.

Counseling Department

2015-2016 High School achievements:

- Jakob Struble qualified for the National Merit Scholarship.
- Tyler Biadasz was offered a full ride scholarship to UW Madison for football.
- Three Foreign Exchange students were hosted.
- First male student received his CNA License.
- Twenty-five juniors took the PSAT/NMQT.
- One National Merit Scholar (1 in 16,000 in the U.S.)
- Seven Certified Nursing assistants.
- Over 20 students leaving with college credit.
- Six FBLA State qualifiers.
- Two FFA State winners.
- Forty-four students took AP courses.
- The Class of 2016 earned over \$450,190 in scholarship money.
- Seven Youth Apprenticeship students.
- Seven students took classes at MSTC through youth options- earning a total of 30 credits.
- Fifty-three students took transcribed credit through the CTE department through MSTC: Horticulture-8, Advanced Metals- 8, Accounting-20, and Intro to Microsoft Office-17.
- Twenty-seven students took tests for the PLTW program.
- Six students from AHS were awarded a Certificate of Proficiency for Level One – Youth Apprenticeship in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources. Wisconsin's Youth Apprenticeship Program integrates school-based and work-based learning. There are a variety of work-based

learning choices offered in 10 different career clusters. Students included: Matthew Kropidowski, Patrick Ward, Isaak Dombrowski, Justin Sankey, Ryan Konkol, and Devon Zblewski.

Business

- We had 43 members participate in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club. Of these, 16 advanced to the State competition in LaCrosse. Ally Laidlaw won the State championship in her event and advanced to Nationals, which was held in Atlanta, GA this past summer.
- Our High School FBLA club took 3rd place as a team at the Regional competition. We competed against 23 other schools, including four Division One schools (FBLA competes geographically, not by enrollment).
- Twenty High School students took and completed Accounting I, which is transcribed with Mid-State Technical College. This allowed them to earn four college credits while still in High School.
- Seventeen High School students took and completed Microsoft Office-Introduction, which is transcribed with MSTC. This allowed them to earn three college credits while still in High School.
- Media AHS Yearbook received the National Yearbook Program of Excellence award for the fourth consecutive year for our 2016 book.
- For the second year in a row, Media students collaborated on several town improvement projects with community business people and members.

Library

- Library circulations have increased as a whole from last year, with the most notable increases in Chromebook use, Graphic Novels, AV, and Other (MakerSpace kits which are new, Kindles, and Professional). Chromebook checkouts increased 49% from 2014-2015; Graphic Novel checkouts increased by 57%; AV checkouts increased by 36% (despite recycling the entire collection of 1,400 VHS tapes at the beginning of the school year); and Other Resources increased by 36%. Computer lab usage and independent student visits have remained steady compared to the previous year. Visits to classrooms for book talks and research skills lessons quadrupled, as did the creation of resource and book lists for specific course units (spanning multiple subjects and grade levels). Over half of all books showcased each month on the changing library displays were checked out, and the library programs throughout the year ("Where's Waldo?", "Find the Golden Ticket", and "March Madness Book Brackets") had a combined total of over 100 student participants.

FFA

- Eric Wuthrich was the State Proficiency Winner – Landscape Management \$250.00 and National Proficiency – Gold Rating.
- Ryan Konkol was the State Proficiency Winner –Specialty Crops \$250.00 and National Proficiency – Silver Rating.
- State FFA Degree - highest award presented by State: Eric Wuthrich - Star Finalist - 3rd in State, Ryan Konkol, Devon Zblewski
- American FFA Degree - highest award presented by National FFA: Natasha Kowalchuk, Mindy Wierzba, Hannah Glennon, Mike Sankey.
- Proficiency Winners at State: Hannah Glennon – 7th place Equine - \$65.00; Mindy Wierzba - 5th place Equine - \$75.00.
- CDE - Career Development Event: Forage Production - 1st Place District and State Qualifier Eric Wuthrich, Brandon Konkol, Meagan Kizewski and Riley Patoka.
- Creed Speaking: Makayla Konkol – Qualified for Sectional

Music

- 2nd Place winner in WDEZ radio station's "Money For Music".

- Women's Choir and Chamber Singers performed at MLK event held at SPASH.
- Forty-five District solo and ensemble students advanced to State Solo and Ensemble.
- Chandler Benn was awarded "Exemplary Soloist" for his vocal solo at State Solo and Ensemble
- Vocal Music and Art Departments collaborated for a Fine Arts Night (Dinner, Art Show, and Concert).
- The Amherst Band Department had a busy 2015-2016 school year, performing 32 different times for pep rallies, graduation, pep band events, and concerts. That is almost one performance a week! Some highlights from the year included the Homecoming Half-Time Show, playing at State Football and State Basketball, Holiday Fest concert, and of course our March and May Band Concerts. The band program is going strong, with 80 members in the High School Band, 65 in Intermediate Band, and 35 in the Beginning Band. Summer Band Lessons started in June; then in August, Drumline and Color Guard Camp kicked-off the start of the school year. We are looking forward to another music-filled year for the Amherst Music Department!!!

Athletics

- Boys Soccer - Head Coach Erik Linde: Participation grew to 30 students this season, with 12 of them being freshmen. Finished with a record of 8-11-2. A lot of young talented players.
- Volleyball - Head Coach Beth Ceglieski: Finished 5th in Conference with a 9 – 6 record overall. Kendra Dombrowski was the team MVP and Shannon Serafin was most improved. A lot of young student athletes got experience on the varsity level, and will see significant playing time in the future.
- Cross Country - Head Coach Don Rosene: First ever individual State Champion runner: Alyssa Niggeman. Girls team qualified for State, along with Seth Barnes. The boys team came up six points short of also competing at State.
- Football - Head Coach Mark Lusic: Finished an undefeated season (14-0) as Conference champions, Sectional champions, and State Champions. Set the State scoring record with 736 points. Two WFCA All-State players: Garrett Groshek and Tyler Biadasz; Groshek also named the offensive player of the year for the entire state, including all divisions.
- Wrestling - Head Coach Dave Peterson: Two sophomores, Max Villnow and Bryce Holderman, qualified for the State competition in Madison. Max took 5th place and Bryce took 6th; both Max and Bryce were Conference champs in their weight class. We hosted a 13-team scramble, the Conference meet and the Regional meet, and they all went well!
- Girls Basketball - Head Coach Gregg Jensen: The team became co-Conference champions after finishing with a 12-2 Conference record. They tied with Wittenberg-Birnamwood. They finished with a 17-6 overall record, earning a 3-seed going into the post season with a first round bye. The girls lost to Gibraltar in the 2nd round of Regional playoffs.
- Boys Basketball - Head Coach Scott Groholski: The team earned another Conference championship finishing 14-0 in Conference. They earned the 1-seed for the post season after finishing the regular season with an overall record of 21-1. After their first round bye, the boys beat Mishicot in the 2nd Regional round, and beat Iola-Scandinavia to become Regional Champions. They beat Algoma in the first round of Sectionals, and beat Marathon in the Sectional final game to earn a trip to State, where they lost to Cameron. They were one of the final four teams in our division to have the honor of going to State.
- Boys and Girls Bowling - Head Coaches Steve Cieslewicz and Barb Conradt: Both the boys and girls teams advanced to the State tournament. The girls team is the District 9 – South Conference Champs. The girls won the Division 2 State Championship!
- Golf - Head Coach Tom Fochs: Robert Johannes advanced to the State Tournament individually. The team came up just short of advancing to the State Tournament. The team will be returning a lot of young and talented players.
- Track and Field - Head Coach: Kristin Anderson: Alyssa Niggemann advanced to the State Tournament in the 800 meter run. Many athletes did very well in the Conference meet.

- Baseball - Head Coach Andy Lind: The boys earned a first round bye in the Regional round, and beat Iola-Scandinavia to advance to the Regional Final game. The team lost in the last inning to Pacelli in the Regional Final.
- Softball - Head Coach Dale Jastromski: The girls had a rebuilding year where a lot of young players had opportunities to play a lot of innings. The team improved throughout the season, and has a lot to look forward to in the upcoming season.
- Girls Soccer - Head Coach Bill Spees: This young program took a big step forward this year. Participation numbers were high, and the team put together a great regular season. The girls lost to Lakeland Union in the Regional playoff game, but the team has a great foundation to build on next year.

Curriculum

- Seven teachers attended the State Reading Convention.
- Ten teachers attended the Summer Math Institute.
- Seven staff members attended the SLATE Conference.
- Both Art teachers attended the National Art Convention.
- New ELA/Reading Curriculum was successfully implemented in the Elementary and Middle Schools.
- 4K-12 Reading/ELA Curriculum was written, aligned to the common core State standards, and made into a document.
- Gifted and Talented Handbook was created and adopted by the school board.
- We supplemented various curriculums throughout the District with \$15,000 of additional grant funds through the Curriculum Enhancement Grants.
- Research and creation of standards based report cards for K-6 grades.

Special Education

- One of our scholars with a disability was the recipient of the Kohl Excellence Scholarship. Students are evaluated for this honor based on their leadership, citizenship, school and community involvement, and academic achievement. In addition, students are evaluated on their ability to clearly articulate goals in each of four areas: future educational goals, personal life goals, community/society service goals, and career goals. This is a \$5,000.00 award granted to 100 students who are graduating from public schools. This will essentially pay the cost of his technical education.
- We received a letter of commendation from the DPI for meeting the requirements of Part B of IDEA for the 2016 year. This assures that we have met the special education compliance indicators required of us under State and Federal guidelines. The indicators they reviewed this year deal with graduation rates, drop-out rates, assessments, suspension/expulsion, disproportionality, timeliness of evaluations, and preschool transitions. They also indicated that they predict we will meet the standards for the 2017 and 2018 years.
- 100% of our seniors with disabilities graduated last year. Although we expect this rate to be high, a 100% rate for graduation of students with disabilities is exceptional considering that the State 4-year completion rate for the 2015 cohort for students with disabilities is 67.5%.
- Although not measured, the frequency, intensity, and duration of significant behavioral incidents or outbursts among our regular special education populations were greatly reduced across the course of the year. This is due to the unique skills of some of our staff and their willingness to share their knowledge and skills.
- Under the guidance of one of our special education teachers, our students with exceptional needs have taken over operations of the concession stand in the High School, and are having great success.

- Our students with special needs are gaining valuable work experience throughout the school by helping with food service and maintenance activities.

Maintenance Staff Achievements

- Dale Peterson has completed three of the seven modules for his Facility Managers Certification.
- Ginny Thompson is currently enrolled in the WSSCA (Wisconsin School Safety Coordinators Association) Certification program. She will be attending modules 3 and 8 on October 26th.
- All custodians have attended no fewer than two WASBO Custodial Conferences over the course of this past summer. This has provided our staff with opportunities to learn new techniques, network with other custodians, and see new and upcoming products that may be helpful in assisting us with becoming more efficient.
- Jay Kurzynski has completed his WASBO Facility Managers Certification Course since last year.

Over the course of this summer, the entire Maintenance Department was instrumental in completing the following projects:

- Painting of Elementary, Middle, and High School Entrances and IMC Doors.
- Painting interior of Outdoor concession stand, as well installation of new counters and counter top inside the concession stand. Installed a fence top guard on fence located directly in front of press box.
- WIAA plaques rehung in High School Commons.
- Installed safety net at the discus throw area as well as a volleyball net in the MS recess area.
- Spread more than 140 yards of playground chips on the Elementary playground as well as around the building. Also planted flowers in front of the cafeteria windows.
- Removed more than 20+ trees and ninebark shrubs from the end of the Elementary playground.
- Assisted in the creation of additional flower boxes for the School Garden.
- Installed LED lights in High School Gym.
- Cleaned out and reconfigured TREES Building for ease of storage of school property.

School Environment and Community Engagement Activities

- Fitness Challenges – 17 teams, 88 participants exercised in 15 minute periods to earn one mile toward their goal of reaching Las Vegas over the 10 week period of the challenge.
- Fifty-three children and adults participated in the 3rd annual 5K Falcon Walk/Run on Saturday, June 4, 2016. With generous community support from Inertia Fitness, Cherry Oaks Pottery, PT Associates of Portage County, Amherst Telephone Company, Amherst Veterinary Hospital, OK Hardware, H.O. Wolding, Amherst Family Foods, Sand Creek Consultants, and Klismith Accounting and Tax Group, and volunteer help and guidance from Jake Barnes, we raised \$1,085 for the Cross Country Team.
- School District wellness policy was rewritten by Mark Luetschwager, Kelly Loken, and Terry Eichmann.
- The Environment Education Committee in cooperation with PTO started the first annual "Milk in the Cow, Feed in the Pig" program utilizing kitchen scraps and student waste milk to raise six feeder pigs to market size. 700 pounds of kitchen scraps and 1,000 gallons of milk were fed to the pigs, which accounted for 50% of their dietary needs.
- Three of the finished pigs were sold through a raffle by PTO. Six lucky winners were each given a half of a fully processed pig. The fundraiser netted a \$1,600 profit for PTO.
- One of the finished pigs was used to feed guests at the annual Scholarship Banquet held in late May, and a second one was used for an end of the year staff event. Both were purchased at market price with proceeds going to support the project.
- The district was able to save \$480 on garbage costs since the empty milk cartons could now be recycled.

2016–17 DISTRICT-WIDE GOALS

Goal #1: Recognize and Celebrate District Successes and Accomplishments

Activities to Support Goal #1:

- Share two positives at each staff meeting. Positives will be recorded and dispersed district-wide through means of an all-school e-mail and Falcon Brag Board.
- Make monthly presentations to the Board regarding programs and related accomplishments.
- Increase coverage of school achievements/accomplishments within area newspapers by meeting with appropriate representatives and having ongoing communication with such representatives.
- Enhance current social media initiatives (Facebook/Twitter).
- Identify under-recognized students and assign staff to assure ongoing validation through the year as appropriate.

Goal #2: Build Greater Connections with Students, Staff, Parents, and the Community

Activities to Support Goal #2:

- Introduce and explore “growth mindset”.
- The District will track the utilization of community experts as in-class resources.
- Teachers will make positive parent contact a priority.
- Increase presence of staff at after-school and community programming.
- Plan four staff social events during the school year.
- Provide funding for 10 full days of substitutes which will allow approximately 30 teachers the opportunity to observe colleagues teaching.
- Quarterly cross grade-level groups will discuss professional articles during inservice time on Tuesday or Wednesday.
- A breakfast (monthly) for the early risers to meet somewhere before school on a Friday morning.

Goal #3: Empower All Staff to Lead and Take Ownership of Student Education and Behavior

Activities to Support Goal #3:

- Develop behavioral expectations for PK-12 students which will be enforced by all staff members.
- Share District goals with ALL staff and support staff.

Goal #4: Foster Cross-Building Relationships of Students and Staff

Activities to Support Goal #4:

- Provide opportunities for cross grade-level relationships through student mentorship, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and Playground Pals.
- Offer a quarterly class in which students can receive credit by working with younger students as mentors/tutors.

Goal #5: Promote Life Skill Development of Students

Activities to Support Goal #5:

- Provide grade-appropriate inservice on speaking and listening skills in all classrooms.

- Share information learned by attending conferences, workshops, meetings, etc., with all staff members.

Goal #6: Promote Wellness and Sustainability

Activities to Support Goal #6:

- Investigate greenhouse options and plan to utilize it across the grade levels and with the assistance and support of community stakeholders.
- Expand upon the “pig project” utilizing tie-ins to curriculum and robust involvement by classroom students. Continue utilizing the Tomorrow River as a resource (Day at the River).
- Provide opportunities to explore the seven dimensions of wellness both for students and staff. (Increase social/emotional wellness activities in addition to activities meant to increase physical well-being through inservice opportunities.)