

TO: Board of School Directors
FR: Lisa A. Brown, Superintendent
RE: January Board Report
DT: January 24, 2019

Student Activities:

HS Finals – The HS semester ended on January 18th. To help students deal with the stressors of finals, a variety of therapy dogs from the Keystone Pet Enhanced Therapy Services (KPETS) organization visited the HS. KPETS is a network of volunteer teams of owners and their companion animals who offer comfort and encouragement in the local community by visiting schools, retirement communities, health-related facilities, and other programs.

Cougar Closet – As a way to reach out to students in need, the HS has established the Cougar Closet. This area will contain gently used clothing and accessories that may help fellow students. Donations are being accepted.

Mini-THON – Both the MS and the HS have been preparing for their Mini-THON events to be held in February. The MS held their “Stall Day” on the day before Christmas break. The students raised \$5,614.48, which was their highest total to date!

Safe2Say Something – The state’s anonymous tip line became operational on January 14th. Palmyra MS and HS students participated in training to learn about the use of this system on January 24th. The district team has undergone training and has met with local law enforcement to discuss how the system will operate.

Other Activities:

Inservice Activities – The January 22nd inservice day for staff is traditionally used for transition activities. In addition this year, under the direction of the district’s Wellness Committee, a mini-health fair was organized. Sessions involved fitness, nutrition, and stress management. A variety of local businesses offered their services.

Front Line Safety Training – On January 22nd, the building secretaries and aides attended a safety training that focused on their role as the first people encountered in a school office. The training was conducted by the IU Safety Coordinator, John Baker.

Early Learning Parties – The second round of the Early Learning Parties have been scheduled for February. They have already surpassed the limit of 50 families registered! Each of the sessions will be held at Lingle Avenue Elementary with the following themes:

February 5th – Language Arts

February 12th – Math

February 19th – Science

February 26th - Gross Motor Skills

Amazon Future Engineer Program Grant – KK Knudsen and Josh Fleming received a grant which provides online class materials to strengthen computer science courses in our HS. These materials will be used this year to support existing computer science courses, and they are planning to utilize the materials to redesign and/or expand computer science offerings.

PASmart Grant – The district is receiving a \$35,000 PASmart Targeted K12 Computer Science and STEM Education grant thanks to the efforts of Dr. Kepler. The majority of these funds are targeted to improve our HS robotics courses. The new elementary and MS STEM courses will trigger the need to expand the level of instruction we are able to provide with our HS students.

Congratulations:

*Rotary Student-of-the-Month – Jeffrey Bobb

Upcoming Events:

- *Musical Pancake Breakfast – Saturday, February 9th
- *HS Mini-THON – Thursday, February 14th
- *MS Mini-THON – Friday, February 22nd
- *HS Musical (Legally Blonde) – March 7th – 10th
- *MS Musical (Mary Poppins) – March 15th-16th
- *Forge/MS Dedication Ceremonies – March 21st (Beginning at 6:00 PM)
- *Cougar Foundation Daddy Daughter Dance – Saturday, April 13th
- *Cougar Foundation Mother Son Dance – Saturday, May 4th