

TO: Board of School Directors  
FR: Bernie Kepler, Superintendent  
RE: January Board Report  
DT: January 23, 2020

### **Student Activities:**

\*Prior to the holiday break, the middle school held its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Fair. This event is widely attended by a variety of career and industry leaders who speak to our 7<sup>th</sup> graders about their career. Our website hosts several pictures of the event.

\*The Palmyra Area Middle School Spelling Bee was held in December. Four winners were named and students represented PAMS at the WITF Spelling Bee here in January. The winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Abby Keiner; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Christine Stavropoulos; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winner: Luke Vottero; 4<sup>th</sup> Place Winner: Jhayce Hawley.

Northside elementary 5<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in a training on pedestrian and vehicle safety on January 6<sup>th</sup>. The training was organized by Officer Dissinger and Mr. Applequist and the trainer was from Hershey Medical Center Pediatric Trauma Unit. Other elementary schools are looking to schedule a similar event at their respective schools.

\*The HS semester ended on January 17<sup>th</sup>. HS Final Exams were held on January 14-17<sup>th</sup>. Students began new courses this past Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.

\*Cougar Closet – A year ago the PHS Student Council opened the Cougar Closet as a means of providing students with clothing and accessories when a need arises. Consider donating any teen clothing to the Cougar Closet.

\*Congratulations to all 23 cast, 11 crew, and five pit orchestra members who participated in this weekend's PA State Thespian Conference and mainstage Performance of *Amélie: High School Edition* at The Strand Theatre in York. The production was presented to a packed house of more than 1200 audience members and adjudicated by both state and national judges. The performance received "superior" and "accomplished" rankings and reviewer remarks were at the highest level. We anxiously wait to hear if we will be invited to perform at the International Thespian Society Festival in Bloomington, Indiana this June.

Madison Boltz, Briana Gingrich, Jake Nguyen, Chancellor Reisinger, and Ryan Taylor represented Palmyra Area High School in individual competition events. All five received high marks and strong reviews. Briana Gingrich received all superior ratings, qualifying her for performance at the 2020 International Thespian Society Festival in June.

\*Congratulations to Shon Messick, 1<sup>st</sup> place winner of the CTC's Annual Gingerbread Competition.

\*CTC Students-of-the Quarter: Trevor Yocum (Landscape Technology) and Shon Messick (Pastry Arts)

\*HS STEM Club members will be teaching STEM lessons to all 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students in the school district on January 30, 2019. The students have developed the "lesson plans" and will be sharing STEM based activities for our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.

\*In the month of **FEBRUARY**, each elementary school will again be embarking on a special literacy project, an all-school book club called **One School, One Book**. Every family and staff member will be receiving a copy of *Frindle* by Andrew Clements, courtesy of the PTO. Families will be invited to read *Frindle* together at home throughout the month. With goals of fostering the home-school connection and developing family literacy, we know this is going to be an awesome experience for our families!

## **Other Activities:**

\*Dr. Spagnolo and Dr. Knudsen, among others, have been working on the 2019-2020 PAsmart Grant. PASD received a \$35,000 grant for the current year and is seeking nearly a half-million dollars of funding in the current year grant. The current year grant would fund the business teacher that is in the budget for purposes of adding computer science coursework to our offerings, as well as updating four elementary STEM rooms at each of the four elementary buildings. Additional resources are being sought for the middle school STEM program as well.

\*Efforts to obtain sponsorships for the turf field project are in full swing. The Cougar Foundation is poised to unveil a donation campaign whereby any individual who makes a set monetary donation will be honored with an engraved brick in the "Cougar Plaza." Additionally, the scope of work associated with signage for field and scoreboard sponsors is underway as we met with Bartush Signs this afternoon. Contact is being made with all previously interested sponsors and a full sponsor packet has been printed.

## **Congratulations:**

\*PAHS Rotary Student-of-the-Month – January 2020: David Keller

## **Upcoming Events:**

- \*February 7 High School MiniTHON
- \*February 26 Spring Sports Physicals
- \*February 28 Middle School MiniTHON
- \*March 12-15 High School Musical (Guys & Dolls)
- \*April 30 Middle School Concert Choir
- \*April 30 High School Envirothon (Levitz Park)
- \*May 5 Middle School Band Concert
- \*May 6 High School Concert Choir
- \*May 7 Middle School Orchestra Concert
- \*May 8 Middle School Envirothon (Middle Creek Wildlife Refuge)
- \*May 12 High School Orchestra Concert
- \*May 14 High School Band Concert
- \*May 14 Elementary Envirothon (Coleman Park)
- \*June 4 Graduation