



CANON-McMILLAN SCHOOL DISTRICT PARENT COUNCIL BUILDING UPDATES



SEPTEMBER 2014

High School

See Separate Sheet

Canonsburg Middle School

CMS kicked off their anti-bullying program for the year with an assembly this past Tuesday. Special Agent Phillip Little, from the PA Attorney General's office, addressed the entire student body about bullying and cyberbullying.

CMS seventh grade students are participating in the 9th annual "CM Fit Day" today. Fit Day is a day consisting of physical activity and promoting wellness. Students spend the morning at the CM stadium and then cycle through stations at the school in the afternoon. It is organized by the school nurse, PE teachers, family and consumer science teacher, and many others.

Cecil Intermediate

Students at Cecil Intermediate School celebrated the 200th anniversary of the "Star Spangled Banner" with an assembly in front of the flag on Friday, September 12th. Our Music teacher, Mrs. McIlvaine, had 6th grade students share important facts about how this famous song was written and how it came to be our National Anthem. All 420 students also sang the "Star Spangled Banner" led by four choral students from Canon-McMillan High School.

Cecil Intermediate celebrated International Dot Day 2014--"Just make a mark and see where it takes you..." and teachers at Cecil Intermediate School did just that! Students celebrated International Dot Day with a number of activities that fostered creativity and making the world a better place. After listening to a reading of The

Dot by Peter Reynolds, classrooms discussed small things young people can do to make a big difference in the world. We looked to our past to learn from those who have or are currently making their marks in our community and in the world. Edwin Hubble was one such individual whose passion for exploring deep space led to the development of the famous telescope bearing his name! Science teachers discussed the importance of curiosity and finding the answers to questions within. Math teachers had students make predictions regarding how many Skittle dots were in a bag and represent the data in a dot plot. Data helps us make informed decisions! Our students were invited to think about the kind of people they would like to become and express themselves creatively to share it!

North Strabane Intermediate

Fundraising kickoff will be held this coming Monday with all students. At this time, students will learn about this year's rewards, such as a limo ride and lunch, cash prizes, etc.

All 5th are currently getting assessed for the new Benchmark Literacy reading program. The assessment provides data for teachers to place students in the appropriate text.

The NSIS Parent Activity Association held its annual kickoff meeting yesterday evening. Parents had the opportunity to sign up for various committees to support students.

Borland Manor Elementary

The PFO has started the year off with a great inspirational message with a school-wide assembly featuring, Jim "Basketball" Jones on September 2nd. The student body enjoyed Jim's fun and quirky antics, and took away the message of tolerance, perseverance and kindness.

On Friday, October 3rd, The Borland Manor PFO hosts their annual "Fall Carnival" from 6-8 PM.

Cecil Elementary

Cecil Elementary had a wonderful and very successful Open House last Thursday. Thank you to our PFO members for all of their hard work.

Everyone is familiar with Redbox movie rental but Cecil Elementary has Readbox! Students are encouraged to exchange their old books for free!

Our fourth graders are excited to begin working on the 2014-2015 Yearbook. Fourth graders volunteer to take pictures during a variety of class times and events, download them to an online service, and create the new yearbook

First Street Elementary

Author Kathy Miller visited First Street on September 18, 2014. Students were given instruction on how to incorporate photography in to their writing.

First Street librarian, Mrs. Gribbin, organized Dot Day which is inspired by the book The Dot by Peter Reynolds. The day celebrates creativity.

First Street PFA hosted a Chinese Auction in conjunction with Open House on September 15. Both events were well attended.

First Street kicked off their Blessings in a Backpack program in conjunction with South Central Elementary School on September 17.

Hills-Hendersonville Elementary

Open House

We had a great turn out at our Annual Open House. Parents, grandparents and students filled the halls and classrooms. In the multi-purpose room, the PTA sponsored a book fair and bake sale.

School-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (SWPBIS)

Hills-Hendersonville Elementary School is in the implementation stage of the SWPBIS system. This is a comprehensive and preventative approach to discipline. The staff is teaching positive behavior through modeling expected behavior and rewarding positive behaviors. We reward students who are following our building rules (Be Accountable, Be Organized, Be Respectful and Be Safe).

Muse Elementary

Muse combined the celebration of the 200th birthday of our National Anthem along with Constitution Day this year by gathering all students and staff around the flag and completing our morning exercises. We said the Pledge of Allegiance, sang The Star Bangled Banner, and listened to fourth grade students recite facts about our Constitution. It was a memorable moment and our students learned some vital information from our nation's history.

Local author and illustrator Sandra McPeake is coming to visit Muse and speak to the students next Friday, October 3^d. Her new book is entitled "In The Garden". It is a non-fiction book about gardening. She will be speaking to the entire student body about her book, planting, and the importance of seeds.

We are planning our first Fall charity event for the year. We will be participating in our own version of the Relay for Life and collecting for the American Cancer Society. The event will be held at Muse on Thursday, October 9th from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. There will be events around the building along with Kona Ice and Nutrition Inc participating with us for the event.

South Central

South Central kicked off the school year unveiling our new "Whale Done" mural. Our art teacher, Laureen Trovato, painted the two-story masterpiece outside our multi-purpose room over the summer.

Week of September 15 - Successful Scholastic Book Fair

Thursday, September 18 - Chippy the Chipmunk Program during the afternoon for the students. Then, author Kathy Miller attended the Open House on Thursday evening to interact with our family members.

Friday, September 19 - PTA sponsored a Tailgate Party before the C-M home football game.

Friday, October 3 - There will be a Title 1 Parent Meeting in the South Central library from 2 - 3.

Like the other elementary schools, our Fall Fundraiser will kick off this afternoon, Friday, September 26th. Students will be selling Sarris Candy and Yankee Candles.

Wylandville Elementary

The annual Fall Carnival will take place Saturday, September 27th at Wylandville from 12:00 - 2:00. The Wylandville PFA sponsors and organizes this wonderful event! Parent volunteers run the different booths and activities that will be enjoyed by Wylandville families in attendance.

We have a few new programs/projects beginning this year and I am hopeful that we will have many opportunities for parents to play an active role in them. I am excited to share that Wylandville has been awarded a \$20,000 grant to fund our "Living Classroom" through a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics) grant program that is funded by the Grable and Benedum foundations and coordinated by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and Intermediate Unit 1. The classroom will be a large greenhouse in the back of our building to which all children will have access. Please look for more information on this project, as I will be coordinating a committee of parents to volunteer time to help support the teachers and students in the "Living Classroom."

In addition to this project, we have implemented a School Wide Positive Behavior Program that has the students very excited. Our theme is "Make your MARK!" When you visit the school, you will see many visuals and reminders for the students to make good marks. All children have opportunities to earn dots when they are making their mark and can receive praise from any staff member. Our assembly today kicked off the program, reinforced expectations and explained how they can earn rewards. Below is the "Make you MARK" visual that can be seen throughout the building.

Make your:

Make good choices

Act kind

Respect others, yourself, and surroundings

Keep being the best you can be

