

November
2014

April 2013

TRSD Employee Recognition

Important Information

Holidays:

Veteran's Day - Nov. 11, 2014

Thanksgiving - Nov. 27, 2014

Thanksgiving Break:

Most Staff - Nov. 24 thru Nov. 28

260-day Employees - Nov. 27 & 28

Board Meeting:

November 18, 2014 @ DO 6:00 p.m.

Payday is Friday, Nov. 21, 2014



HIGH SCHOOLS

ILLINOIS VALLEY

Derrick Hawks joined the IV staff two weeks before teachers were to return from summer break, to make it more difficult he lived in Kansas. Since joining the staff he has made every effort to integrate himself into our school and community. His passion for kids has been evident from the start and it shows with his continual effort to support students with their needs. Recently Mr. Hawks is organizing and facilitating a Music Booster club with parents of the music program in-order to take the IV music program to the next level. We greatly appreciate his influence, passion and being part of Cougar Nation.

The IV Custodial staff – John Johann, Jason Davis and Don Pickern; These 3 individuals have gone above and beyond in preparing Illinois Valley High for the return of students. Without the continued passion that these individuals have for this building, staff, students and community we would not be able to achieve what we do. They are very much appreciated and are an irreplaceable trio. Thanks for your hard work!!!

HIDDEN VALLEY

Dennis DeCasas has taken our life skills program to a new level literally. He has

done a fantastic job finding the special talents of his students. Specifically, we would like to draw attention to his ability to limelight some of his students and their talents. We have a student that has a special ability to build and fly remote controlled planes. At our last two home football games, this student has been encouraged to become the official Mustang flyer. What has happened is nothing short of amazing.... as this student has gotten excited about school, his special talents, and a place to display a level of confidence not illustrated before. We are so proud of Mr. DeCasas effort to bring the little things out in students so they too can fly to a new level.

Donny Hiler has been an amazing lead man for our district. I cannot imagine the facility project here at Hidden Valley High School without his expertise and service heart. On countless occasions, Don helped us problem solve and move schedules based on what we needed for support at the time. His effort and attitude are admired by all that work with him. Customer service is not an issue whatsoever when Mr. Hiler is at the helm. We so appreciate all he has given of himself and his team in regards to completing a turf project that had tight timelines to finish!

NORTH VALLEY

We would like to acknowledge the Fall Sports Coaches, **Neil Deforest, Travis Osborne, Jacob Schauffler, Jeff Conard, and Adam Wagman** for going the extra mile of doing a great job as teachers but also coaches as well. Coaching varsity teams requires many hours outside of the school day and away from family. A very special thank you to the Knight Varsity Coaching staff who modeled how to handle disappointment and adversity at the end of the season with honor and integrity. The Knights are proud of you!

Karen Cole, our Athletic Secretary, is not just a secretary. She is as involved and invested in our athletic and activity programs as our coaches and advisors are. Her attention to detail and her loyalty to North Valley is just one reason we are proud to have her as part of the Knight staff!

NEWBRIDGE

The day of the paper school newsletter has come and gone. Thanks to **Marlo Zeller**, NBHS is celebrating student success, student activities and classroom events through our new format, the digital school newsletter. If you're ever interested in finding out what is going on be-

hind the walls of a closed custody correctional facility and discover what our students do and learn, you can now find out by going to: newbridgenews.org. Login and password are: reader. (no www required)

Marlo is also spear heading a Swags for Charity. The funds raised will help support our Sparrow child (community service) and our students help develop and learn about business planning (state standards and practical experience).

Thank you Marlo for advancing the information flow from NBHS to our parents and stakeholders, for engaging your students in the craft of professional communication , giving them an avenue to communicate their interests, successes and a process of giving and helping someone else through your Sparrow efforts.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

LINCOLN SAVAGE

We would like to recognize **Brenda Tall** for her extra work bringing the SMILE club together. Brenda organized our first SMILE Family Night of the year with dinner and fun activities for our families including making "Ice Cream in a Bag". Thank you, Brenda, for your willingness to promote this valuable program and for being a positive role model for our students.

Trisha Wall is a newcomer to our school and has grown up here in the Grants Pass area. Trisha filled our Educational Assistant/Family Advocate position which became vacant not long after school started. She brings her years of organizing and running youth sports to Lincoln Savage, helping with intramural and lunch time activities. On a normal day she is between assisting students, covering the locker room, assisting with intramurals, facilitating our Family Advocate program and is the 21st Century coordinator for IVHS. We are glad to have Trisha as part of our staff!

FLEMING

I'd like to lift up **Dan Scott**. Dan has assisted Lise and I with our transition to Fleming. When we experienced some hardships and were unable to be in the building it was Dan who worked with our office staff to solve problems for students. Dan has been a fantastic resource for students. He is firm, fair, and friendly. Students trust him and often will talk to him about a problem before seeking others assistance. Please thank Dan for his commitment to Excellence at Fleming Middle School. Thank you Dan.

We would like to lift up **Pam Kudlac**. Pam has been a pillar for Fleming's extra curricular activities program. Every week she can be found scrambling around covering the details that make sporting events fun to attend. She is thorough in preparing for any event from the big stuff like referees and teams down to the water and/or candy bars for student helpers. In our school office, Pam is always available to assist staff or students with their issues and magically her work always gets done as well. We appreciate Pam's dedication to our staff and students at Fleming. Thank you, Pam.

LORNA BYRNE

We wish to recognize **Chris Jelderks** for integrating Art into his ELA classroom, in conjunction with the Studio to School program. Chris has shown a great deal of cooperation and effort in making this happen in the name of his students. His bravery for becoming the first of the Lorna Byrne Staff to allow this program to be implemented into a core subject area needs recognition, and his welcoming nature and cooperative spirit has enriched the curriculum for his students. Congratulations Chris on a Job well done.

We wish to recognize **Sean McKee** for an outstanding job teaching and preparing his band/choir students for the Fall concert. His students were an excellent example of what is going right at Lorna Byrne. The participants shined as their smiles told the story of how proud they were. Parents faces reflected back the proud happy experience. Well done Sean!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

EVERGREEN

Tawnya Campbell, Title 1 Teacher: This is Tawnya's first year in this position and she is a team player. She is willing to do whatever it takes to support student growth and learning. During her day, she teaches core curriculum, small groups, and intervention times to specific students based on the data, not to mention monitors progress of our intensive readers. She is a leader in the building and a resource for many teachers, assistants, and the principal; especially around reading instruction. "*What is best for kids*" is her motto and we are truly lucky to have such a valuable asset at our school.

Erica Lundberg, Office Manager: Erica is an amazing office manager for Evergreen, and is the heart and soul of our building. She embraces staff, students, and families of our school to make sure the kids are successful academically, behaviorally, and socially. Mr. Regal states that Erica is like having a vice principal at Evergreen and works collaboratively with him daily to provide a safe learning environment for all students. Erica continues to go above and beyond her duties to make sure Evergreen is a wonderful place to learn and visit. We are truly blessed to have such a dedicated and caring lady at our school.

FORT VANNOY

I would like to recognize all the staff for their dedication and hard work as they have dealt with the new Journey's curriculum and scheduling. However, since I must recognize one teacher I would like to recognize **Phil Biencourt** who teaches the 4/5 blend at FV. Phil has put in countless hours and has shown patience in working through some technical kinks. I appreciate his time and energy. In addition, I would like to recognize **Kathy Suits**. Kathy has taken a new role at FV as the computer lab supervi-

sor. Kathy's willingness to learn the programs as well as trouble shoot issues at the classroom and building level have been very helpful.

FRUITDALE

Kaye Gilbert is our Title One coordinator. She is responsible for multiple groups including all grade levels. She leads up our math Enrichment program providing hands-on Smarter Balanced open ended problem solving opportunities for all students. Kaye collects and distribute all of our progress monitoring data in both math and reading and sits with teams to make sense of the numbers as they relate to student growth. Kaye is an amazing staff member whose support is endless. Thank you Kaye for all you do.

Barb Dinkowitz is an educational assistant who works with our Camp Sunrise students. She has been a rock in this transition of teachers in our program. Her support for these students is tremendous. I'm not sure what we would have done in the past month without Barb in our program. She has helped every substitute as well as maintained a consistent warm environment for our students. Thank you Barb for all of your hard work. Our students are lucky to have you.

Fruitdale would also like to recognize **Kelli Palmerton**. Kelli is a district office employee who is an amazing resource to the staff of Fruitdale. She and her crew has worked endlessly to provide all schools with the new textbooks and materials. This has been an on-going process as the year continues. Kelli also helped us maintain some consistency in our district's Camp Sunrise Program in subbing for our first week without a teacher. On top of her endless responsibilities at the District Office, Kelli came and did a tremendous job with the students of Camp Sunrise. Thank you for all of your help. We appreciate it.

MADRONA

Rob Harrington is a 4th grade teacher and is working with Mr. Crowson at Lincoln Savage through the 21st Century Grant. He will be helping implement a Science curriculum with a vision of strengthening the bridge between elementary and middle school. In addition,

Rob is starting an after school Science Club for our students at Madrona; Rob's love for Science is truly contagious.

Debbie Sauro is one of our classified staff. Debbie fills our teacher's lounge with baked goods. EVERYTHING she makes is so yummy, and it brings a sense of family to our school. She also is admittedly more comfortable with intermediate students, but willingly went outside her comfort level, and is now spending part of her day with first graders. The first graders truly love her, and her flexibility and caring touches around our school make a huge difference.

MANZANITA

This year Manzanita gained a .25 third grade class size reduction teaching position. **Teresa Northcross**, our fabulous Title I teacher, agreed to take this temporary position. She has embraced the third grade reading curriculum with a positive, can do attitude. Additionally she has established reading intervention support groups and a progress monitoring schedule for all students in need. Teresa strives daily to do what is best for kids and Manzanita is lucky to have her as our Title I teacher and third grade support.

Mary Jannett is a classroom assistant, traffic director, recess instructor and mentor. The list could go on and on. I appreciate all that Mary brings to Manzanita. She has a fabulous, contagious, positive energy. She is flexible and always willing to do what needs to be done for kids. Mary approaches every task with a smile. She has even been seen doing a little dance while directing traffic. Manzanita appreciates you Mary!

APPLEGATE

Vicki DiStefano, K/1 teacher who is pioneering 5-day per week kindergarten with great success. Like the rest of our teachers, Vicki is working hard to implement our new ELA adoption, and working with Instructional Assistants to ensure small group work is operating smoothly. Vicki is also a member of our building RTI team. She is a positive, forward-thinking teacher who is a consummate team player.

Laura "Punky" Travalini will retire in early December, but she has willingly and capably accepted new tasks with the arrival of a new principal. Punky has taken on many of the duties of an athletic secretary, developing and confirming schedules, monitoring required paperwork from coaches and players, and helping recruit coaches for Applegate Athletics. She also is a great instructional assistant, working with our young readers in small groups. Punky works hard, without complaint, with a smile for everyone. She will be missed by all of our staff and students, and by many across the district.

WILLIAMS

Sylvia Saporta, SpEd teacher, who has been integral in helping staff place students into small group leveled reading, progress monitoring, schedule-tweaking, and all the while running a tight ship for our Special Education program at Williams and Applegate. Sylvia is a true professional, with a strong aptitude for data and translating its meaning to action which benefits our students. She comes to work everyday with a can do attitude, and is one of those staff members that makes everyone around her just a little bit better!

Sheila Hanger is an ERC assistant and is the newest addition to the Williams Team. She has worked diligently to learn all the aspects of her job, and she was contributive from the start. Sheila is doing very well working with our students in reading groups and with our students who have individual plans. She is a great addition to the Special Education department at our school – with Sylvia Saporta, our SpEd teacher, handling two schools, Sheila's role is critical in keeping the ball rolling when Ms. Saporta is away, and she's doing a great job of this. Our staff is pleased to have Sheila, whose local knowledge and positive attitude each day is valuable for all of us!

MAINTENANCE

Donny Hiler from the maintenance department has done outstanding work in both quality and quantity over the last month. Donny has been involved in numerous projects from bleacher reconstruction at HVHS to installation of a

special student swing at NVHS to the waste water treatment upgrades at Fleming middle school. These are just a few of the countless projects that Mr. Hiler has personally completed or provided direction for over the last short time frame. I appreciate his professionalism, work ethic and attention to detail. I never worry if work will be done in the most cost efficient, effective and with a sight on a long-term solution, when Donny is involved.

Dave Holmes, Superintendent

CURRICULUM

I would like to recognize and thank **Jim Bunge** and **Custodial Services** along with **Ric Ross** and **Maintenance** for excellent service to the District. Specifically Jim, Ric and their crews responded to a need involving classroom space at Fruitdale Elementary School with professionalism, speed and with attention to detail. When presented with a problem that was affecting teaching and learning, they both dropped what they were doing and made this project a priority. A true testament to their dedication to Three Rivers School District and the students we serve!

Dave Valenzuela, Director

SPECIAL EDUCATION

I would like to send out an appreciation for all of the staff members that helped out with the TRACT move to Jerome Prairie. This was a huge undertaking and could not have been done without many hands! At the top of the list are **Jim Bunge** and his **custodial staff**, they were amazing! Their efforts to move an entire classroom and office, set up and respond to a list of custodial needs was incredible. Jim took it upon himself to load and transport multiple times and worked with TRACT staff to get all needed supplies and equipment. The efforts of our **maintenance staff** to respond to work orders was impressive and much appreciated, Thank you **Donny, Ben** and **Ric**. **Shawn Treen, Shari Noble, Debbie Lemoine, Kim Pyle** and the **TRACT students** worked hard to create a wonderful new learning environment at Jerome Prairie. I appreciate everyone's efforts, flexibility and hard work!

Stephanie Allen-Hart, Director

FOOD SERVICE

I would like to thank **Donna Davis** and **Wren Murphy-Sheldon** for all of their work behind the scenes on behalf of Food Service. They order the food needed to provide the 96,000+ meals that were served to students last month; including problem-solving how to have bananas delivered that aren't "mushy." In addition to "grocery shopping" on a scale none of us can imagine, they complete mountains of paperwork required by ODE in order for the District to receive reimbursement for the breakfast and lunch programs. Their attention to detail and fantastic attitudes make them gems to work with.

Debbie Breckner, Director



Happy Thanksgiving!

TALKING TURKEY | THANKSGIVING FACTS & FIGURES

The Turkey Industry

- 4.5** BILLION The value of turkey produced in 2008.
- 20-25** THOUSAND The amount of people employed in the turkey industry.
- 7.9** BILLION Amount of turkeys produced in 2008.

The quantity of turkey consumed by the typical American in 2007, with a heavy helping devoured at Thanksgiving firms. Per capita sweet potato consumption was 5.2 pounds.

13.8 POUNDS

117 MILLION Number of households across the nation — all potential gathering places for people to celebrate the holiday.

28 Number of places in the United States named Plymouth, in Plymouth Rock, the landing site of the first Pilgrims.

3.8 BILLION Forecast 2008 receipts to farmers from turkey sales.

1.3 BILLION Retail cost per pound of a frozen whole turkey in December 2008.

A Thanksgiving dinner in 1935

Pickles, green beans, celery, roast turkey, cranberry sauce, gravy, stuffing, creamed corn, apple pie, sweet potato casserole, baked carrots, hot rolls, fruit salad, mince meat pie, fruit cake, candies, grapes, apples, French drip coffee, cigars and cigarettes.

The total weight of sweet potatoes — another popular Thanksgiving side dish — produced by major sweet potato producing states in 2008. North Carolina produced the most sweet potatoes; it was followed by California and Mississippi.

1.8 BILLION POUNDS

271 MILLION The preliminary estimate of turkeys raised in the United States in 2008. That's not statistically significantly different from the number raised during 2007.

709 MILLION POUNDS The forecast for US cranberry production in 2009. Wisconsin is expected to lead all states in the production of cranberries, followed by Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon and Washington are also expected to have substantial production.

496 MILLION POUNDS Illinois led the country in production of the sweet orange juice.

49 MILLION Minnesota produced the most turkeys.

400 MILLION POUNDS Wisconsin is expected to lead in the production of cranberries in 09.

847 MILLION POUNDS North Carolina produced more sweet potatoes than any other state.

320,200 TONS Wisconsin led all states in green bean production in 08.

Thanksgiving Timeline

- 1541** Spanish Colonizers established a European Thanksgiving with the friendly Teyo Indians present, occurred in Pico Duro Canyon in West Texas.
- 1621** Pilgrims and Native Americans entered a harvest feast in Plymouth, Massachusetts. This feast may have become the model for today's American celebration.
- 1630** Settlers and colonists from many continents brought customs of days of prayer and thanksgiving, especially in New England.
- 1777** This year marked the first Thanksgiving in the newly formed United States of America.
- 1789** Washington's first proclamation after his inauguration as the nation's first president in 1789 declared November 26, 1789, as a national day of "Thanksgiving and praise."
- 1800s** The annual presidential Thanksgiving proclamations ceased for 45 years in the early 1800s.
- 1863** President Abraham Lincoln renewed the tradition in 1863.
- 1941** President Roosevelt agreed the bill establishing the fourth Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day. (Previous 2 years out of every 7 have it Thanksgiving in November.)

mint.com
Source: © James Bevan, USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service