

June 2019

Mehlville Messenger

A Mehlville School District Publication

Students explore nature at Smoky Mountains learning camp

More than 75 elementary school students enjoyed an amazing educational opportunity in April, as they took a three-day adventure to the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont. The outdoor learning center camp is located in eastern Tennessee within Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Fourth- and fifth-grade students from MOSAIC Elementary and Oakville Elementary were part of the Mehlville School District's first journey to Tremont. The school principals also went on the trip, along with some teachers, a nurse and a counselor.

The Tremont Institute has a barracks for sleeping, a mess hall for meals and a wide range of hiking trails through the mountains that let students explore the wonders of nature. Expert guides lead a variety of adventures with stops along the way so students can write down and reflect on what they are learning. The destinations included a mountain waterfall where students learned about rock formations, as well as the banks of a river where



Aden Memisevic and Delaney Clark, fourth grade students at Oakville Elementary discovered some aquatic animals while exploring a creek.

students captured salamanders and other living creatures to explore how animals adapt to their environment.

Not every item on the itinerary was about academic learning. Students were encouraged to build relationships, discover new strengths and overcome unexpected challenges.

Oakville Elementary teacher Michelle Bridgewater took part in the adventure. "Having the opportunity to watch students explore outside the box, all while gaining important knowledge on topics that we typically only have the opportunity to read in a book was amazing," said Bridgewater. "It was eye opening and exciting for me as an educator." MOSAIC elementary teacher Stephanie Werner added, "In fifth grade, students learn about life science, food chains, ecosystems and sustainability. At Tremont, students were able to connect the learning in the classroom with real world exploration."

During the 2019-2020 school year, elementary students from five district schools will have the opportunity to visit Tremont.

Mehlville School District is a 2019 National District of Character

Mehlville School District has been re-certified as a National District of Character by Character.org. The program recognizes the district for providing students with opportunities for moral action, fostering shared leadership, and engaging families and communities as partners in the character-building effort.

"We are honored to receive this national award for a second time," said Dr. Chris Gaines, superintendent of Mehlville School District. "Character.org recognizes that our work creating our Portrait of a Graduate is an important evolution and extension of the character work that got us recognized the first time in 2014."

The Mehlville School District Portrait of a Graduate identifies the wide range of values and skills that we want every graduate to possess to help them lead successful professional and person lives. Among those skills and

values are: creative and critical thinker, self-aware, persistent, communicator, and ethical and global. These desired soft skills, which were determined by a committee of staff, parents and community members, are taught by blending character education and innovative instruction to equip students with 21st century skills.

Mehlville School District is one of just three districts throughout the country to receive the National District of Character designation in 2019.

"These schools' representatives, including educators, parents, and students, are working together to create stronger communities focused on character," said Doug Karr, Character.org's president and CEO. "We are honored to validate their efforts and continue coaching them along their journeys."



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The *Mehlville Messenger* is published by the Communications Department four times a year for Mehlville School District residents, businesses and families. Its purpose is to inform the public of district news, student achievements and community involvement activities. Please submit questions, letters and comments to:

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Mehlville School District

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Reflecting on 2018-2019 school year, and planning for 2019-2020

As another school year comes to a close, I want to say “Congratulations” to our Class of 2019 graduates! You have learned the tools you need to pursue your dreams, become the person you want to be and accomplish your goals. We wish you the best in your future endeavors.

This is also the time we look back at the 2019 school year’s accomplishments. Notable highlights include our district’s highest ever APR score of 99.6%; continued improvement in student ACT and MAP scores; another year of balanced budgets; and the Finance Committee’s confirmation that our district continued to meet the Prop R promises. Our students, teachers, staff and leadership all deserve credit for these achievements.

We also say thank you to our retirees for their many years of service, while also looking forward to seeing new faces and our “homegrown” leaders moving into new positions. The future looks bright as multiple efforts are already underway to provide students with even more opportunities in 2020.

One new program is the Middle School Academy, which formally structures innovative education methods at our four middle schools. This is starting with sixth grade in 2020 and expands to seventh and eighth grades in 2021 and 2022. The Academy’s innovation processes are largely based on those first implemented at our MOSAIC Elementary School.

We also look forward to strengthening Social Emotional Learning (SEL) supports across our district. SEL focuses on teaching soft skills necessary for learning and life, such as self-regulation, persistence, empathy, self-awareness and mindfulness. This focus on educating the “whole student” has demonstrated positive impacts on student academic achievement and future career success.

As Frank Sinatra famously sang, “The best is yet to come,” and we’re seeing it in the Mehlville School District. I hope you all have a safe and fun summer.

Kevin Schartner



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Summer will be busy!

It’s hard to believe another year is behind us. While many think the summer is a down time for schools, there is a lot happening.

The district is slated to have the largest summer school session on record. We have expanded to three elementary sites (Forder, Blades, Rogers) to meet the demand. Middle School Summer Session students will be at Bernard, and more than 500 students will take courses at Mehlville High School or virtually.

Summer projects will be underway as well. The Board of Education has accepted bids on the following projects:

- New HVAC system at MOSAIC
- Replacing single-pane windows at MOSAIC
- Elevator upgrades at Oakville High School and Wohlwend
- Replacing stair tread at Buerkle and Wohlwend
- Painting the ceiling of MHS Gym A
- Ceiling tile replacements in some MHS classrooms
- New bleachers at the Jack Jordan Stadium at MHS
- Asphalt work throughout the district
- Roof work at OHS and Bierbaum
- Replacing fencing around the transportation department

We have less than 60 working days to get this work done, plus the annual deep cleaning that goes on in buildings. Our maintenance and custodial staff will be working tirelessly over the summer break to have the buildings ready when students return in August. We appreciate their hard work.

In August, students will return to new opportunities in the middle and high schools. About 50 students in each middle school will be part of our new Middle School Academy. The Middle School Academy presents students with blended learning opportunities, including project-based learning,

inquiry-based learning, personalized learning and guided teacher expertise. Students in the Academy are empowered to shape how they learn the curriculum throughout the school year. Academy teachers are innovators who will share best practices and lessons learned with teachers throughout the district.

At the high schools, about 10 students will be part of our new early college program. In this program, students will attend St. Louis Community College where they will earn credits toward an associate’s degree while they earn their high school diploma. The goal of this program is to have students graduate and quickly be ready to enter the workforce.

I hope you have a great summer. Thank you for allowing us to serve the children of our community.

Dr. Chris Gaines



Middle School Academy teachers spent time in the spring semester preparing for the Academy’s launch. (L-R) Michael McGlew, Sadie Lewis (instructional innovation specialist), Dan Regan, Susan Weedman, Sam Brotherton, Emilee Theel, Eric Theby, Amber Mathews, Jefferson Stephens

Mehlville School District welcomes new principals at several schools

There will be new leaders at a few of our schools beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

Tamara Sunkett, Principal, Oakville High School

Tamara Sunkett is a respected educator with a wealth of experience in a variety of settings, including more than 15 years of administrative experience.

“I am truly ecstatic and honored to be named principal of Oakville High School,” Sunkett said. “The Oakville High School community embodies the standard of excellence. As principal, I look forward to supporting the staff, students, parents and community as we continue to ensure high academic standards.”

Sunkett joined the Riverview Gardens School District leadership team after the district lost state accreditation and is currently serving as assistant superintendent – leadership and accountability. She was instrumental in helping the district improve academics and achieve provisional accreditation. Prior to her work in Riverview Gardens School District, she was principal at Madison High School in Madison, Illinois, and she’s been an elementary principal and an assistant middle school principal in Edwardsville School District. Sunkett was an English teacher and instructional methods coach before her administrative roles.

“Ms. Sunkett will continue the school’s strong tradition of empowering students with choices and preparing them to excel in post-secondary education and career opportunities,” said Dr. Chris Gaines, superintendent of Mehlville School District. “Ms. Sunkett shares Oakville High School’s core values and is committed to collaboration, teamwork and relationship-building. I am excited that she will be joining the Mehlville School District team.”



Lauren Cumming, Principal, Bernard Middle School

Lauren Cumming has served as assistant principal at Bernard Middle School for the past three years. Prior to that she taught foreign language and French at Oakville Middle School for seven years. Cumming was named the Missouri State Assistant Principal of the Year in 2018.

“Mrs. Cumming is a model example of a servant leader,” said Dr. Jeff Bresler, assistant superintendent, supervision of schools, of Mehlville School District. “She’s a lead learner who strives for continuous improvement and creates an environment where every staff member and student can find success. We know she will continue the forward momentum created under the leadership of Lori Sullivan.”

“I am truly honored and incredibly excited to continue supporting the Bernard community as the new head principal next school year,” Cumming said. “Bernard has high expectations for student achievement in classroom learning environments that are engaging and relevant to the real world.”



Paul Morris, Principal, Bierbaum Elementary School

Paul Morris has worked at Bierbaum Elementary for the past three years, serving one year as a fifth-grade teacher before being promoted to assistant principal. Prior to that, he was an elementary school classroom teacher at Bayless Elementary School and Pond Elementary School.

“Mr. Morris is a visionary leader,” Gaines said. “He is passionate about leading a school that embraces



diversity, high expectations and an innovative mindset. I am excited to see him continue the work he began as assistant principal of Bierbaum.”

“The joy I feel when coming to work at Bierbaum each day is like nothing else,” Morris said. “I am thrilled to be the next leader of Bierbaum Elementary School. There is so much to be proud of at Bierbaum. As principal I will work to celebrate those things while keeping an eye toward the future as we seek to consistently improve and offer the best educational experience that we can.”

Julie Durham, Principal, Hagemann Elementary School

Julie Durham has worked as assistant principal at both Trautwein Elementary School and Wohlwend Elementary School for the past two years. She has also served as an elementary summer school principal for three summers, and was a classroom teacher at Wohlwend from 2005 to 2017.



“Mrs. Durham is a proven leader dedicated to continuous improvement for all of our students and staff,” Dr. Bresler said. “Her student-centered approach and passion for learning aligns with the values of the Hagemann community. She believes in establishing and embracing relationships that benefit our students. Her positive attitude is contagious.”

“I am extremely excited and grateful for the opportunity to be the next leader of Hagemann Elementary,” Durham said. “As the new leader, I will work alongside Hagemann’s dedicated educators to continue to provide our students the love, support and guidance they need to be successful learners. I cannot wait to begin my work with the Hagemann community as we grow together in the upcoming school year!”

Erin Kennedy, Assistant Principal, Bernard Middle School

Erin Kennedy comes to Bernard Middle School after teaching English Language Arts at Orchard Farm High School for the past 10 years. She’s also been an elementary librarian. “Mrs. Kennedy is an energetic and passionate instructional leader who will collaborate with our students and teachers as we help every student succeed,” said incoming Bernard Principal Lauren Cumming.



Dr. Jessica Schmelzle, Assistant Principal, Mehlville High School

Dr. Jessica Schmelzle is currently an administrative intern for Special School District and has experience as an adjunct professor and student teaching supervisor. She also helped launch the Early Childhood Careers program at St. Charles County’s technical high school. “Her diverse experience will be an asset to our building as we continue to support our students and provide them with the best possible high school experience,” said Jason Landherr, incoming principal at Mehlville High School.



Meagan Ochoa, Assistant Principal, Bierbaum Elementary School

Meagan Ochoa has taught for 14 years at Wohlwend Elementary, most recently as an English Language teacher. She’s also served as elementary summer school principal. “I am eager to join the Bierbaum family in their journey of continuous improvement and developing students who thrive at school and in life,” Ochoa said.



Globe-trotting English teacher named District Teacher of the Year

Mehlville School District's 2019 Teacher of the Year is Cheryl Ogolin, English teacher at Mehlville High School.

"Through her English Language Arts curriculum, she develops and nurtures her students' ability to advocate for the change they want to see in the world," said Dr. Chris Gaines, superintendent of Mehlville School District. "She balances rigor and student choice in her classroom, and she seeks out learning opportunities for students that extend beyond the Mehlville High School campus."

Ogolin has arranged for and lead trips with students during summer and spring breaks through Education First. She's visited countries across the globe including Spain, Czech Republic, Bosnia, Costa Rica, Panama, Australia, Japan and many others.

In her eight years as an MHS teacher, she's also encouraged students and faculty to improve their wellness and manage their mental health through yoga and meditation. Prior to teaching at Mehlville High, Ogolin taught at Bayless High School for eight years.

"Her enthusiasm for learning is contagious with both students and colleagues," said Dr. Denise Swanger, MHS principal. "We are thrilled that she was named Mehlville School District Teacher of the Year."

School Level Awardees

Teachers of the Year

Lauren Toney, Speech-Language Pathologist, John Cary Early Childhood
Christen Otto, Fourth-Grade Teacher, Beasley Elementary
Madalyn Bush, Kindergarten Teacher, Bierbaum Elementary
Lauren Wojcicki, Fifth-Grade Teacher, Blades Elementary
Jacqui Schilling, English Language Teacher, Forder Elementary
Devon Drikow, Kindergarten Teacher, Hagemann Elementary
George Aplin, Music Teacher, MOSAIC Elementary
Lori Erb, Second-Grade Teacher, Oakville Elementary
Alisha Oetting, Fifth-Grade Teacher, Point Elementary
Debbie Bayer, Fourth-Grade Teacher, Rogers Elementary
Kim Benson, Kindergarten Teacher, Trautwein Elementary
Julie Karl, Second-Grade Teacher, Wohlwend Elementary
Tosha DeBold, Science Teacher, Bernard Middle
Michele Hilson, English Language Arts teacher, Margaret Buerkle Middle
Christina Whelehon, English Language Arts Teacher, Oakville Middle
Katie McMullen, English Language Arts Teacher, Washington Middle
Cheryl Ogolin, English Language Arts Teacher, Mehlville High
Stephanie Allen, Science Teacher, Oakville High
Ryan Boyd, Teacher, SCOPE

Classified Employees of the Year

Bob Stringer, Custodian, John Cary Early Childhood Center
Mary Wallenberg, Cafeteria Recess Aide, Beasley Elementary
Tori Perry, Secretary, Bierbaum Elementary



Cheryl Ogolin was presented with the Mehlville School District Teacher of the Year award during the district's recognition night. (L-R) Dr. Chris Gaines, superintendent; Peggy Hassler, Board of Education secretary; Ogolin; Dr. Jeff Bresler, assistant superintendent of schools.

Cheryl Ritzie, Cook, Blades Elementary
Megan Wedemeier, Nurse, Forder Elementary
Macheal Amelung, Secretary, Hagemann Elementary
Melina Ulrich, Secretary, MOSAIC Elementary
Michelle Mezyk, Paraprofessional, Oakville Elementary
Pam Burton, Paraprofessional, Point Elementary
Sarah Wilson, Paraprofessional, Rogers Elementary
Angie Chesnick, Paraprofessional, Trautwein Elementary
Val Savage, Secretary, Wohlwend Elementary
LaKristel Collins, Paraprofessional, Bernard Middle
Andy Schoen, Custodian, Margaret Buerkle Middle
Julie Hubbell, Counseling Secretary, Oakville Middle
Angie Thompson, Nurse, Washington Middle
Christina Raney, Counseling Secretary, Mehlville High
Bill Langley, Custodian, Oakville High
Tonia Laurine, Nurse, SCOPE
Sean Owens, IT Supervisor, Central Office
Keith Townsend, Carpenter, Facilities Department
Mike Markowski, Bus Driver, Transportation Department

The Mehlville School District Teachers of the Year and Classified Employees of the Year were recognized at the district's annual Recognition Night on May 9 at Genesis Banquet Center. Thank you to the following event sponsors: Charles Meyer Insurance Agency, Cigna, Wm. G. Cocos Co. Inc., The Teachers' Lounge and Vision Benefits of America.

Oakville High student receives scholarship valued at about \$500,000

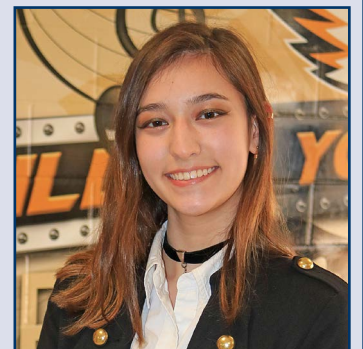
Caitlin Blanchard, an Oakville High School senior, has been awarded the Steven C. Beering Scholarship from Purdue University Honors College. The scholarship covers expenses for a bachelor's degree, a master's degree and either a Ph.D., or a professional degree.

"It's an extraordinary achievement for an extraordinary young lady," said Jan Kellerman, principal at Oakville High School. "She has persevered, and we are so proud of her."

The scholarship is estimated at around \$500,000 for out-of-state students. It covers the average cost of education (tuition, room and board) for three degrees and funding for a study-abroad experience.

Blanchard plans to pursue degrees in pharmacy and a career in pharmaceutical research.

"I have Tourette Syndrome, so I have experience with different indirect medications since there's none that can actually treat it straight on," Blanchard said. "I've had a very difficult time dealing with it, and it has impacted me socially, too. If there is anything I can do to help lessen the pain for future generations, I am more than willing to do it."



SCHOOL SNAPSHOTS

Students design a sustainable garden at Washington Middle

Students in Washington Middle School's Green Architecture class designed and created the school's sustainable garden. After researching ways to best use natural resources, they developed a garden that included drip irrigation, compost bins, worm composting, mulch and beneficial insects. To prepare for the planting season, students installed the irrigation and composting bins, and they created mulch from fallen branches.

Green Architecture is a middle school elective course where students learn how to apply green concepts to the fields of architecture and construction. This garden project provides the opportunity for students to apply the math and science skills they've learned in a real-world experience that benefits their school community.

Alec Watson checks on the worms before placing them in their new homes: a worm composting bin. The worms will turn cafeteria food waste into compost for the school's garden.



A walk down memory lane

Before the class of 2019 graduates on June 2, they visited their elementary schools to encourage students following in their footsteps. These senior walks have become a favorite pre-graduation activity for all involved.



William Ho, Mehlville High School senior, returns to his elementary school, Forder Elementary, to inspire younger students.

Grant empowers Buerkle students to solve community problems

Next year, all students at Margaret Buerkle Middle School will benefit from a \$60,931 grant from the Innovative Technology Education Fund (ITEF). Buerkle teachers applied for and received this major grant to support their #HandNHand project.

#HandNHand is a school-wide, year-long service learning opportunity for all Buerkle students. Beginning at the start of the 2019-2020 school year, students will participate in team-building activities to develop a growth mindset, grow empathy, encourage compassion and foster teamwork. Throughout the year, students will use these skills to connect with their school and their community by researching a local organization. Students will take a field trip to the organization to learn about their work and challenges. Then, students will follow the design-thinking process to generate solutions to these challenges. At the end of the school year, students will host a Buerkle Expo to showcase their accomplishments to the organizations they worked with, their parents and community members.

Cathy Schultz, computer literacy teacher at Buerkle, hopes the program will teach empathy and creative thinking. "Our entire staff is so excited about this opportunity," Schultz said. "Research shows that the best way to teach problem solving is to practice in authentic settings. This experience does that. It allows students and staff to work with the community and create solutions to real problems that they are passionate about."

The project aligns with Mehlville School District's Portrait of a Graduate, which outlines the traits all students should graduate with, Schultz said. Portrait of a Graduate traits include creative and critical thinking, self-aware, persistent, communicator and ethical and global.

The grant will pay for professional development for teachers, and transportation and technology expenses related to #HandNHand. The grant will allow Buerkle to purchase a 3-D printer, cameras and microphones for teleconferencing with community organizations, and supplies for brainstorming stations in common areas of the school. The grant also pays for a plastic reclamation machine, which recycles plastic waste into filament for the 3-D printer.

Buerkle Middle School teachers who created #HandNHand and applied for the grant include Ericka Gulden, Cathy Schultz, Cheryl Tentschert, Susan Weedman, Trish Wells and Joan Wright.



(L-R) Buerkle Middle School Principal Jim Kern, Buerkle teachers Cheryl Tentschert, Trish Wells, Susan Weedman and Cathy Schultz; and Robert Cole, ITEF board chair.

Helping students make real-world connections

“It can be difficult to show kids how history impacts their lives today,” said Dan Regan, social studies and English Language Arts teacher at Margaret Buerkle Middle School. However, Regan has been working with a Discovery Education coach, funded by Prop R. The coach has helped him spark real-world connections between students and the curriculum. For example, when thinking about the skills required to colonize America, Regan encourages students to consider the workers needed to colonize our current-day frontier: Mars. “It’s an interesting way to consider future careers, and once the students researched salaries of different positions, they all wanted to be engineers. They loved this activity.”



Regan discusses a mapping project with social studies students at Buerkle Middle School.

Focusing on foundational skills for learning

Some of the students in Peggy Evers’ kindergarten class at Oakville Elementary came to school in August without knowing any of their letters. By May, all but one student was able to read age-appropriate books independently. A big part of this success, she says, is due to support from Laura Kadlec, the school’s reading interventionist. Kadlec was hired as an interventionist with Prop R funds. Through small group instruction, and one-to-one instruction, Kadlec works with all students in kindergarten, first and second grade to help them become stronger readers.



All students receive challenging instruction, customized to them, when they meet with Kadlec.

Facilities improvements have made school more comfortable

HVAC work has been completed at Buerkle Middle, Mehlville High, Oakville High, Oakville Middle and Washington Middle, thanks to Prop R. Fire alarms were replaced at Bierbaum Elementary and Oakville Middle, and ceilings were replaced at Mehlville High and Washington Middle. The turf and track were replaced at Mehlville High and Oakville High. The floor was replaced in Gym A at Oakville High, and some exterior doors were replaced at Mehlville High. Asphalt maintenance was completed district-wide. Additional roofing projects have been completed with funds generated by Prop A.

“Two summers ago, Buerkle Middle School received a new HVAC system. It has definitely made a difference in the learning environment,” said Jim Kern, Buerkle principal. “It’s hard to focus when it’s hot. The part of the building with seventh-grade classrooms would sometimes get up to 80 degrees on hot days.” New HVAC controls help keep the building a consistent temperature.



Promises Kept

Three years later: The Prop R tax increase is improving school for Mehlville School District’s students

In November 2015, the Mehlville School District community passed Prop R, a 49-cent tax increase to the school district’s property tax rate. Thanks to the support of voters, the district began receiving about \$8 million in additional funds to support student learning in the 2016-2017 school year.

The tax increase was specifically earmarked for:

- restoring and improving funding for early interventions for struggling students;
- training and retaining quality teachers and staff;
- upgrading student and district technology;
- restoring, repairing and upgrading HVAC systems, roofing and district facilities; and
- funding ongoing operating expenses.

The funds have been used to hire 16 additional teachers since 2015, including 11 classroom interventionists and five English Language teachers. Additionally, about \$1 million is now spent each year in professional development for teachers. This training helps the district keep quality teachers and improve instruction for students.

Thanks to the tax increase, the district now provides and maintains one Chromebook for each student in kindergarten through high school. And much needed facilities improvements, like updates to HVAC systems and fire alarms, have contributed to safer and more comfortable classrooms for students and staff.

To ensure financial transparency, the Mehlville Finance Committee reviews and verifies expenditures from Prop R. This year, as it had in the year prior, the committee found the district fully complied with its promised expenditures.

“Prior to the passage of Prop R, Mehlville School District was reducing its budget due to declines in revenue, and that’s when we saw student achievement drop,” said Dr. Chris Gaines, superintendent. “Money does matter. As we’ve spent more on teachers, professional development, technology and facilities, our performance has improved. We are able to do a better job of teaching and empowering students today than we were prior to the passage of Prop R.”



New buses improve student safety, reduce repair costs

Prior to the 2016-2017 school year, Mehlville School District was not able to replace buses on a regular basis. From fiscal year 2009 to fiscal year 2015, the district purchased just 10 new buses. Since the passage of Prop R, the district has purchased 24 new buses and has a plan to replace buses every 16 years. This improves student safety by reducing the risk of buses being stranded on the road. The district has also seen a decrease in costly repairs on aging buses.

Language support that benefits all students

More than 52 languages are spoken in Mehlville schools, and a growing number of students receive English Language (EL) services. Five additional EL teachers were hired after the passage of Prop R. In addition to increasing services for students, EL teachers like Jacqui Schilling are also exploring the best ways to deliver their instruction. Rather than



Reed and Schilling work as a team to blend English language instruction with first-grade curriculum.

pulling students out of a class to provide language services, today, many EL teachers co-teach with grade-level teachers. “In the past, students would leave during science or social studies for EL, and I would have to try to catch that student up on what they missed,” said Heather Reed, first-grade teacher at Forder Elementary who co-teaches with Schilling. “Now, students receive language instruction as part of social studies, math or science. We are working together to build the academic vocabulary that benefits all students.”

“I can see the students’ language growing from kindergarten through first and second grade,” Schilling said. “It’s amazing how fast students acquire their second or even third language.”



Ogolin has refined how she teaches writing with the help of a coach.

Nurturing young writers

Funds from Prop R have helped English Language Arts teacher Cheryl Ogolin improve how she teaches writing to her Mehlville High School students. Through professional development with the Gateway Writing Project, Ogolin worked with a coach who visited her class to provide feedback on her instruction and tips for reaching all of her students. “The Gateway Writing Project, and especially my coach, helped me become a more reflective practitioner,” Ogolin said. “My coach helped me strategize different ways to reach students no matter if they were remedial writers or advanced writers needing to be challenged. I believe all of my students are stronger writers because of the support I’ve received through professional development.”



More after-school activities for students

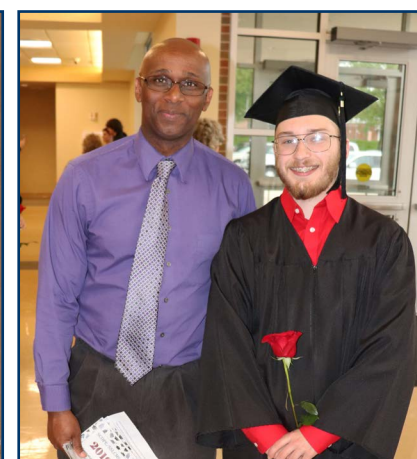
Since Prop R passed, the number of student clubs and activities has doubled. Spending on activities has gone up from \$182,000 in the 2015-2016 school year to \$262,000 in the 2018-2019 school year. Students now have the opportunity to participate in additional sports at the elementary and middle school levels, like middle school cross country, pictured at left. They can explore their interests in the arts, robotics, cultures and gardening through school clubs. Clubs and activities provide kids a deeper sense of belonging and allow them to pursue areas of interest.

Students overcome obstacles to earn diplomas

The Mehlville School District celebrated the first of three high school graduations on Monday, May 20, as 74 students who attend the SCOPE program received their diplomas. SCOPE is an educational consortium that is managed by the Mehlville School District. Students from Lindbergh, Bayless, Affton as well as Mehlville attend. 51 of the graduating SCOPE students are from Mehlville or Oakville High.

The program combines online learning and direct classroom instruction, and serves students who struggle in a traditional classroom setting. “We don’t see SCOPE as their last chance. We see it as their best chance,” explains SCOPE principal Scott McMullen. “Many of the students who finish up with us, when they come in, there’s not a lot of optimism. They hadn’t had a lot of success academically or socially. Just seeing them be able to persevere and meet their end goal despite all the obstacles they face is very rewarding.”

St. Louis Urban League president and CEO Michael McMillan was the guest speaker, and he had quite a surprise for two students. McMillan called Ian Beck and Melisa Muric up to the stage and presented each of them with a \$1,000 scholarship for the dedication and leadership they showed during their time at SCOPE.



At left, Skyelar Gregory receives a congratulatory rose from Sharon Owens, SCOPE secretary. At right, SCOPE principal Scott McMullen, with graduate Ben Hamilton.

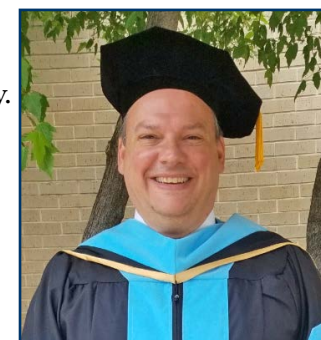
STAFF DISTINCTIONS

Oakville Middle administrator earns doctorate

Dr. Patrick Bellinger, assistant principal at Oakville Middle School earned his doctorate of Education Administration from Lindenwood University in May.

Authors in innovation

Dr. Scott Clark, MOSAIC Elementary principal, and **Dr. Chad Dickemper**, executive director of planning and development, wrote a chapter in “Designing Successful Systems” about MOSAIC. The book is a collaborative project by Connected Learning.



Dr. Patrick Bellinger

Girl Scout award

Mehlville School District received the Gold Trefoil award from the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri. The award recognizes an individual or group outside of Girl Scouts whose superior contributions create pronounced council-wide impact. The district was specifically recognized for providing meeting space to troops at no cost.

‘Friend of Education’

Larry Felton, vice president of the Mehlville School District Board of Education, was honored by the Missouri Association of School Administrators for his service to public education. Felton was one of eight individuals to receive the association’s Friend of Education Award.

The award is presented annually to recognize non-educators, one from each of the eight MASA Districts, for their contribution to education locally or statewide. “Mr. Felton has served for more than 12 years on the Mehlville School District Board of Directors,” said Dr. Chris Gaines, superintendent of Mehlville School District. Dr. Gaines presented Felton with the award in March. “He was instrumental in helping the district pass its first tax levy since 1986. Mr. Felton is a past president of the Missouri School Boards’ Association. He has served on the governing council for the Special School District, and was co-chair of the Public Review Committee for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on two occasions.”



(L-R) Dr. Chris Gaines, Larry Felton, MASA President Ken Eaton

Nominations open for inaugural Mehlville School District Alumni Hall of Fame

Mehlville School District, in partnership with the Mehlville-Oakville Alumni Association, is seeking nominations for the district’s Alumni Hall of Fame.

Distinguished alumni chosen for the inaugural induction in the Mehlville School District Alumni Hall of Fame will be recognized at the Mehlville vs. Oakville football game on Friday, Oct. 25, 2019.

The purpose of the Mehlville School District Hall of Fame is to identify and celebrate graduates of the Mehlville School District (Mehlville High School and Oakville High School) who have made a lasting impact in their communities or on our nation. These inductees will serve as role models for current and future generations of students who aspire to be productive citizens and demonstrate traits that align to the Mehlville School District Portrait of a Graduate Traits:

- Creative and Critical Thinker
- Self-Aware
- Persistent
- Communicator
- Ethical and Global

Nominations must be received by the Mehlville School District Hall of Fame Committee by Aug. 1 of each year. Late nominations will be considered for the following year.

Nomination directions and forms are available online at: mehlvilleschooldistrict.com/community/hall_of_fame. If you do not have Internet access, please call 314-467-5150 to request nomination materials.

New student enrollment dates and times for 2019-2020

Families can enroll new students for the 2019-2020 school year this summer. Many schools schedule special enrollment days, but if these days do not work for your schedule, please call the school to schedule an enrollment meeting. Some schools close for part of June and July. Staff will return your phone calls when the office reopens.

Mehlville High School: If you live in the Mehlville High School attendance area, you may contact the MHS registrar at 314-467-6107 to receive a registration packet any time during the summer hours, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday. The office will be closed on Fridays. Please call first for an appointment. An enrollment meeting will be scheduled once all registration documents are completed.

Oakville High School: If you live in the Oakville High School attendance area, you may contact the OHS registrar at 314-467-7107 to receive a registration packet any time during the summer hours, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 3 p.m., Monday through Thursday. The office will be closed on Fridays. Please call first for an appointment. An enrollment meeting will be scheduled once all registration documents are completed.

Middle Schools: Registration appointments are available on the dates and times listed below. For those schools with full day registrations, there will be a break from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to allow for lunch and other school business. Please call first for an appointment.

Bernard Middle: Thursday, Aug. 1, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., 314-467-6600
Margaret Buerkle Middle: Thursday, Aug. 1, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., 314-467-6800
Oakville Middle: Monday, Aug. 5, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., 314-467-7400
Washington Middle: Thursday, Aug. 1, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., 314-467-7600

All elementary schools, with the exception of MOSAIC, will hold registrations beginning Monday, July 29. There will be a break from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to allow for lunches and other school business. Please call and make an appointment. Contact information is as follows:

Beasley Elementary	314-467-5400	Oakville Elementary	314-467-5800
Bierbaum Elementary	314-467-5500	Point Elementary	314-467-5900
Blades Elementary	314-467-7300	Rogers Elementary	314-467-6300
Forder Elementary	314-467-5600	Trautwein Elementary	314-467-6400
Hagemann Elementary	314-467-5700	Wohlwend Elementary	314-467-6500

Early Childhood: Programs are located at John Cary Early Childhood Center, and the following elementary schools: Forder, Trautwein, Point, Beasley, Bierbaum and Hagemann. All locations are first come, first serve until all slots are full. Spaces have been filled for the upcoming school year 2019-2020. Please call John Cary Early Childhood Center at 314-467-5302 to be placed on a waitlist.



Trautwein Elementary

July 2019

*Choose from 4 Sessions

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Abra-Kid-Abra | Chess Club |
| Adventures in Storytelling | Imagine Arts |
| Babysitting Basics | Jewelry Creations |
| Bricks 4 Kidz | Little Wilderness |
| Broadway for Beginners | Little Veterinarian |
| Cheer Camp | Mad Science |

*Dates and times found on website

ADDITIONAL SUMMER PROGRAMS:

- ▽ Learn to Swim & Advanced Swim
- ▽ Coached Lap Swim
- ▽ Youth Tennis
- ▽ Driver's Education
- ▽ Swimnastics (Swim Aerobics)

REGISTER ONLINE:

mehlvilleschooldistrict.revtrak.net

Contact Mehlville Community Enrichment:

314-467-5280 or lusterk@msdr9.org

www.mehlvilleschooldistrict.com/community



Community Enrichment

Proud Member of the Mehlville School District

STUDENT DISTINCTIONS

2019 Missouri 100 awardees

Three seniors received 2019 Missouri Scholars 100 honors. **Meredith Bayer**, Oakville High School; **Harrison Hong**, Mehlville High School; and **Morgan Murphy**, Oakville High School, have been selected as top academic students throughout the state of Missouri.



(L-R)
Meredith Bayer,
Harrison Hong,
Morgan Murphy

Future Health Professionals advance to international competition

Fourteen Mehlville and Oakville high students have earned the opportunity to compete in the HOSA - Future Health Professionals International Leadership Conference this summer. The following students may advance to the international competition:

Abesalom

Weldemichael
(MHS senior),

Ariam

Weldemichael
(MHS freshman),

Natalie Langer

(MHS senior),

Alex Norrenberns

(MHS freshman),

Kelly Tuong

(MHS

freshman), Hunter

Eyestone

(MHS

freshman), Katelyn

Jackson

(OHS

junior), Lauren

Linenbroker

(MHS sophomore),

Jasmine Chen

(MHS sophomore),

Mary Galaske

(MHS senior,

received the top

score in the state),

Lydia Brooks

(MHS

junior), Minna

Alnamoora (MHS

senior), **Carly Herman** (MHS senior), and **Jeni Holdegraver** (MHS senior)



(Back row L-R) **Lauren Linenbroker, Alex Norrenberns, Hunter Eyestone and Abesalom Weldemichael**
(Front row L-R) **Kelly Tuong, Jasmine Chen, Ariam Weldemichael, Katelyn Jackson and Natalie Langer**



(L-R) **Jeni Holdegraver, Mary Galaske, Carly Herman, Minna Alnamoora and Lydia Brooks**

Tops at Tech Awards

South Tech's Tops at Tech awards recognizes a student in each program for their performance, dedication and enthusiasm. The following Mehlville High students received awards: senior **Tyler Hemmelgarn** for Auto Collision Repair, junior **Harry Meyer** for Firefighting, senior **Shelby Jacquot** for Early Childhood Education, senior **Taylor Schuster** for Veterinary, and senior **Tiffany Nguyen** for Pharmacy Sciences. The following Oakville High students received awards: junior **Barikome Alapbe** for Information Technology & Graphics, senior **Connor Lieberman** for Floorlayers Middle Apprenticeship, senior **Haley Miller** for Health Sciences, senior **Joshua Boyer** for HVAC, senior **Nick Hufker** for Precision Machining.

National French Contest

Sixteen Oakville High School French students participated in the National French Contest, sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of French. Students were evaluated on their written, oral and listening comprehension skills in French. Senior **Kirsten Kauffmann** earned a silver medal. Freshman **Ellie West** and sophomore **Katie Seithel** earned bronze medals. Freshmen **Iris Mohesky** and **Faruk Sopovic**, sophomore **Matthew Weigel** and junior **Jordan Borawski** earned honorable mentions.



(L-R) **Katie Seithel, Kirsten Kauffmann, Ellie West**



(L-R) **Jordan Borawski, Faruk Sopovic, Matthew Weigel, Iris Mohesky**

Do The Right Thing Award

Teressa Brown, Trautwein Elementary fifth-grader, received a Do The Right Thing Award in March for spreading kindness at school. Brown was nominated for creating a daily kindness challenge at school. She created a display and calendar for the front entrance and is a role model to fellow students on how to be helpful and kind.



(L-R) **Captain Kevin Lawson, St. Louis County Police Department; Teressa Brown; Lt. Col. Michael Caruso, St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department**

Rosemary Zander Awards

Four Mehlville School District students received the Rosemary Zander Award from Special School District. **Jacob Bartola**, fifth-grade student at Blades Elementary School; **Najda Bosnic**, senior at Oakville High School; **Carla Davis**, senior at Mehlville High School; and **Yvonna Walker**, sophomore at Mehlville High School, received the award, which recognizes students receiving services from SSD for their accomplishments.



(L-R) **Jacob Bartola, Najda Bosnic, Carla Davis, Yvonna Walker**

Speech and Debate National Qualifier

Connor Jones, Oakville High School senior, received a fourth place finish in Lincoln Douglas Debate and a second place finish in Domestic Extemporaneous Speaking at the Eastern Missouri National Speech and Debate Association district competition. Jones qualified to compete in the national competition for Extemporaneous Speaking.



Connor Jones

Academic All American for Speech and Debate

Mehlville High School junior **Erica Rawizza** earned the National Speech and Debate Association's Academic All American award. The award recognizes students for academic rigor, competitive speech and debate success, and personal excellence.



Erica Rawizza

Missouri Female Youth Bowler of the Year

Mehlville High School freshman **Grace Ogle** has been named the Missouri Female Youth Bowler of the Year. Ogle has been bowling competitively for the past five years.



Grace Ogle

Future Problem Solvers

Several Bernard Middle School sixth-grade students qualified for the Missouri Future Problem Solving competition: **Amelia Radwanski, Annabella Lograsso, Lizzie Wescoat, Noah Michel, Ava Winchester, Sara Jackson, Katie Laur, Addison Sands, AJ Brown, Alyssa Johnston, Noah Dobbins, Tristan Carnaghi, Jonathan Selph** and **Sophie Earp**. Future Problem Solving is an academic program that offers curricular and competitive opportunities for K-12 students. The program fosters the capacity for students to think innovatively in cooperation with others while enhancing proficiency in writing clearly and concisely.

Spirit of Community

Jessica Gerber, Oakville High School senior, was awarded the Prudential Spirit of Community President's Volunteer Service Award for the number of volunteer hours she gave to her community.



Jessica Gerber

Technology Student Association qualify for nationals

Several Oakville High students in the Technology Student Association earned awards at the Missouri State Championships in April. Students who received first place awards have qualified to compete at the national level. Junior **Sam Gindler** earned a top five state qualifier in CAD Architecture. **Clayton Brown** earned first place in CAD Architecture. The team of **Kiley Hurford, Gindler, and Kevin Wich** earned a top five state qualifier score in Architectural Design. The team of **Garrett Summerfield, Ryan Jokuti, and Logan Wyas** took home first place in Coding. The team of **Summerfield, Alex Schumacher, Kevin Nguyen, and Lauren Caliman** earned first place in On-Demand Video. **Katelyn Hopkins** earned a first place finish in Photographic Technology.

Future Business Leaders of America

Oakville High students participated in the State FBLA Leadership Conference. Senior **Emma Mueller** earned State Champion and qualified for the national conference. Juniors **Cailyn Hickman, Amanda Fitzwilliam** and **Emily Merritt** earned ninth place for Entrepreneurship. Junior **Jack Scalise** qualified for state in Organizational Leadership, and sophomore **Leah Martin** qualified for state in Financial Math.

Drum and Bugle Corps

Oakville High School junior **Adam Zapf** and senior **Myles Lawson** have been accepted as members of the Cavaliers Drum & Bugle Corps. Sophomore **Helen Tolcou** has been selected into the color guard of The Academy Drum and Bugle Corps. Both drum and bugle corps require a rigorous audition process and will perform across the country this summer.

Students place in DECA state competition

Oakville High seniors **Andrew Phillips** and **Brandon Mumma** received third place awards at the DECA state competition in Travel and Tourism Team Decision Making. DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.

Kiwanis Terrific Kids

Mia Adams, eighth-grade student at Bernard Middle, received the Kiwanis Outstanding Student award.



Top left: Mia Adams with her parents Pam and Dean Adams and assistant principal Lauren Cumming. Top right: Emily Vassolo with her parents Linda and Brian Vassolo.

Emily Vassolo, eighth-grade student at Buerkle Middle, received the Kiwanis Outstanding Student award.



Peyton Lee, Oakville Middle eighth-grade student, and **Britney Nguyen**, Washington Middle eighth-grade student, received the Kiwanis Outstanding Student award. (L-R) Peyton Lee, Britney Nguyen



Kiwanis recognized Terrific Kids at Wohlwend Elementary in April: (L-R) Carla Rowell, Kiwanis of South County member; **Zoey Branch**, fourth-grade student; Pauline Roth, Kiwanis Club of South County member; **Jackie Tighe**, fifth-grade student; Julie Durham, Wohlwend assistant principal; **Landon Kraft**, second-grade student; **Terrell Hackney**, third-grade student; and Dr. Dave Meschke, Wohlwend principal.



Kiwanis recognized Terrific Kids at Point Elementary in February: (L-R) **Sophia Musick**, second-grade student; Linda Bowen, Kiwanis Club of South County member; **Evan Kiser**, third-grade student; Pauline Roth, Kiwanis Club of South County member; **Hana Smajis**, fourth-grade student; **Norah Brandt**, fifth-grade student; Roy Wunsch, Kiwanis Club of South County president; Dr. Shannon Pike, Point principal.



Kiwanis recognized Terrific Kids at Rogers Elementary in March:

(L-R, front row) **Samuel Conboy**, second-grade student; **Scout Blagg**, third-grade student; **Mirnes Prgo**, fourth-grade student; and **Jurnee Jones**, fifth-grade student. (L-R, back row) Rogers Elementary Principal Dr. Patrick Keenoy, and South County Kiwanian Pauline Roth.



Kiwanis recognized Terrific Kids at Trautwein Elementary in March: (L-R, front row) **Ella Chrun**, second-grade student; **Samantha Velasco-Salinas**, third-grade student; **Brenden Tucker**, fourth-grade student; and **Reagan Kirkpatrick**, fifth-grade student. (L-R, back row) Mary Howard, Pauline Roth and Trautwein Principal Dr. Shannon Henderson.



Attn: Postal Patron

ECRWSS

IMPORTANT DATES

Find district event information at mehlvilleschoolidistrict.com.

June 2	Oakville High School Graduation, 1:30 p.m., Chaifetz Arena
June 2	Mehlville High School Graduation, 6 p.m., Chaifetz Arena
June 3-28	Mehlville Summer Session
June 6	Facilities Steering Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Point Elementary
June 13	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High Library
June 27	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High Library
July 1-25	Community Enrichment summer camps
July 2	Facilities Steering Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Bernard Middle
July 31-Aug. 1	New Teacher Orientation
Aug. 6	Facilities Steering Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Buerkle Middle
Aug. 8	Professional Development
Aug. 9	Professional Development
Aug. 12	Teacher Workday
Aug. 13	First day of school
Aug. 15	Board of Education Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Mehlville High Library
Aug. 21	Facilities Steering Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., Hagemann Elementary
Aug. 28	Half day for students
Sept. 2	No school - Labor Day

Three Years Later ...

How the Prop R tax increase is benefiting students



See the report on page 6

Mehlville Messenger

Education Outside



Kaden Updike, MOSAIC student at Tremont Institute

Mehlville earns National District of Character recognition, see page 1



JUNE 2019

IN THIS ISSUE

Board President Note: Reflecting and planning..... Page 2
 Superintendent Note: Summer projects..... Page 2
 New principals..... Page 3
 Staff recognition..... Page 4
 Buerkle receives \$60,000 grant..... Page 5
 Prop R promises kept..... Pages 6-7
 Alumni Hall of Fame..... Page 8
 Summer programs Page 9
 Student distinctions..... Pages 10-11